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# Irreverent Guide to Manhattan

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# IRREVERENT guide to Manhattan

5th Edition

By
Ethan Wolff

With Shopping by Karen Quarles
Based on the Fourth Edition by Aaron Zwas and Kristen Couse

Wiley Publishing, Inc.

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## About the Author

**Ethan Wolff** watches the evolution of the Lower East Side from a tenement window above Ludlow Street. His next Frommer's Book is *New York City for Free & Dirt Cheap*, hitting the shelves fall, 2004.

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# INTRODUCTION

Veteran television viewers already know exactly what an invitation to visit New York sounds like:

*Hey, you, you comin' to New York or what? We got it all, theater, film, food, music, museums, and we're the friggin' best at it. Whaddya expect? We're the capital of the world. We've even got the U.N. General Assembly to prove it. And that's not even mentioning New York being the capital of entertainment, publishing, finance, advertising, and art. London? Paris? L.A.? Please. Don't make me puke. All the other so-called cities are just kidding themselves. Too much attitude? Sue me.*

Of course, that unreconstructed Noo Yawk type is hard to come by outside of the sit-coms these days. Over the past few years, Manhattan has become almost unrecognizably safer, cleaner, and more prosperous. The phrases "newly renovated" and "meticulously restored" come up again and again in descriptions of major local institutions. From the gorgeous renewal of Grand Central Station and City Hall Park to the refurbished walkways over the Williamsburg and Brooklyn bridges, to the 5 miles of parkland just added along the Hudson River, the city has gotten an unprecedented number of things right lately.

So what's the catch? The city's a little blander now. Gentrification has sanded down the edges on some of the colorful old neighborhoods. Chain stores broke into the island's economy, and the corporations turned Times Square into a soulless shopping mall. A lot of Manhattan hipsters have decamped

to Brooklyn, and the people who have replaced them tend to be yuppie types seeking easy commutes. You don't have to look any further than the mayor's office to see the shift in New York. We've elected billionaire Michael Bloomberg, who took over for law-and-order conservative Rudy Guiliani, and neither has a fraction of the personality of iconic '80s mayor Ed Koch. Not that New Yorkers are nostalgic for the bad old days—filthy parks, ubiquitous drug dealers, spiking murder rates, and a general menace in the air—but there is a sense that some of Manhattan's trademark grittiness is in danger of being lost.

To an out-of-towner, the idea of an over-polished Big Apple might seem pretty ridiculous. It's easy to imagine a visitor scoffing "This is what you consider clean?" while stepping around a pyramid of rat-infested trash bags beside a building slathered in graffiti. Despite the recent invasion of Starbucks and Gaps, Manhattan still has more local flavor on a single block than most American cities have in their entire downtowns. Stand on any corner here, and you'll know you're in New York. No other place has the diversity, the ambition, or the outlandishness. Not to mention New York's legendary pulse. Even a horrific terrorist attack hasn't been able to change that.

The echoes of the two airliners that slammed into the towers of the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001, still reverberate across the city. There's a hole in the city's heart that matches the void in the skyline, and it's hard to find people here who aren't grieving on some level. The physical changes to the city are really the least of it, though that's probably what a return visitor will notice first. Security is tighter, sensitive targets are protected by concrete barriers, and building staffs have become a lot more uptight. In the main transportation hubs, you'll find soldiers toting automatic weapons. The elegant front of the New York Stock Exchange is now obscured by a hectic maze of metal fences that suggests preparations for cattle in a stockyard (with the way Wall Street has been going the last few years, maybe the metaphor is apt).

September 11 has left a hole in our economy as well. Many tourist-related industries—hotels, restaurants, Broadway, the shops of Fifth Avenue—are still reeling. One result of this downturn is that New Yorkers have come to really respect their guests. New York public life often carries a feeling of instant camaraderie. Whatever you're experiencing, you're rarely experiencing it alone. Post-9/11, that sense of solidarity has been opened up to include tourists. They're not just sidewalk-clogging nuisances, New Yorkers realize; they're vital threads in our urban

fabric. Ask for directions or recommendations, and the preconception that New Yorkers are rude will be quickly shattered. People may be busy and sometimes brisk, but they're friendly, especially now that they've realized the tourist trade can't be perennially taken for granted.

New York is a city that sheds its skins incredibly quickly. If tourists have been scared away, you'd never know it to look at the crowds in Times Square, Greenwich Village, and SoHo. The city is so dynamic that a person can be startled by changes in their own neighborhood after only a weekend away. The restaurants in Chinatown are packed again, Little Italy's streets are barely passable, and sidewalks overflow along the Great White Way. Even the neighborhood around Ground Zero is normalizing. The Winter Garden in the Word Financial Center was a wreck of broken glass and gray ash after 9/11, but today it looks showroom-fresh. Next to the towers' foundation, traffic zooms up Church Street and bargain hunters descend on discount department store Century 21. As they say on Broadway, the show must go on.

Already a jaded population, after 9/11 New Yorkers are even harder to faze. In the Blackout of '03 panic was minimal. Neighbors helped each other negotiate dark staircases while citizens took to the intersections to direct traffic. Instead of the looting of blackouts past, my neighborhood was dancing to tribal drums and a marching band that picked up new players as it wound through the pitch-black streets.

Serendipitous experiences like that wait around every corner in New York. Manhattan apartments, cramped by the standards of veal pens, force people to live much of their lives in the public sphere. When you're out and about in New York, the city is as much yours as it is anyone else's. Sit in Central Park on a sunny day, and you'll own it. Look around at your fellow citizens, and you may feel like you're all in on the same secret—that idling in Central Park is the superior mode of human existence.

It's counterintuitive, but post-9/11 the value of Downtown real estate has gone through the roof. All kinds of costs have risen, from taxes to train fares to tolls—just starting the day with a bagel and the *New York Times* has gotten a lot steeper over the last couple of years. And it's not like things were cheap here to begin with. New York did invent the $30 hamburger, after all. It's a testament to the city's allure that despite the expense, and the fears of terrorism, and the noise and filth and congestion, people are still clamoring to live here. New luxury apartment buildings are popping up on the avenues all over

town. The city's white elephants, from warehouses to office buildings, are being converted into condos. Walk through a neighborhood of low-rise tenements and peek up at the tops: You'll see new penthouses sprouting from the rooflines.

Part of New York's continuing appeal is that it's one of the last places in America to offer unrestricted travel. Other U.S. cities sprawl unreasonably, with horrendous traffic, limited parking, and few public transportation options (and what exists tends to be punitively inconvenient). In New York, however, the subway ensures that you can get anywhere you want any time you want. Also, things are close to each other here. The entire island of Manhattan is only 13.5 miles long and 2.3 miles across at its widest point. At the major downtown intersection of Houston and Broadway, you're on the edge of NoHo and SoHo, and within a 15 minute walk of the West Village, the East Village and the Lower East Side, TriBeCa, Little Italy, Union Square, Chelsea, and Chinatown. You could do all your traveling on foot here and never run out of things to see.

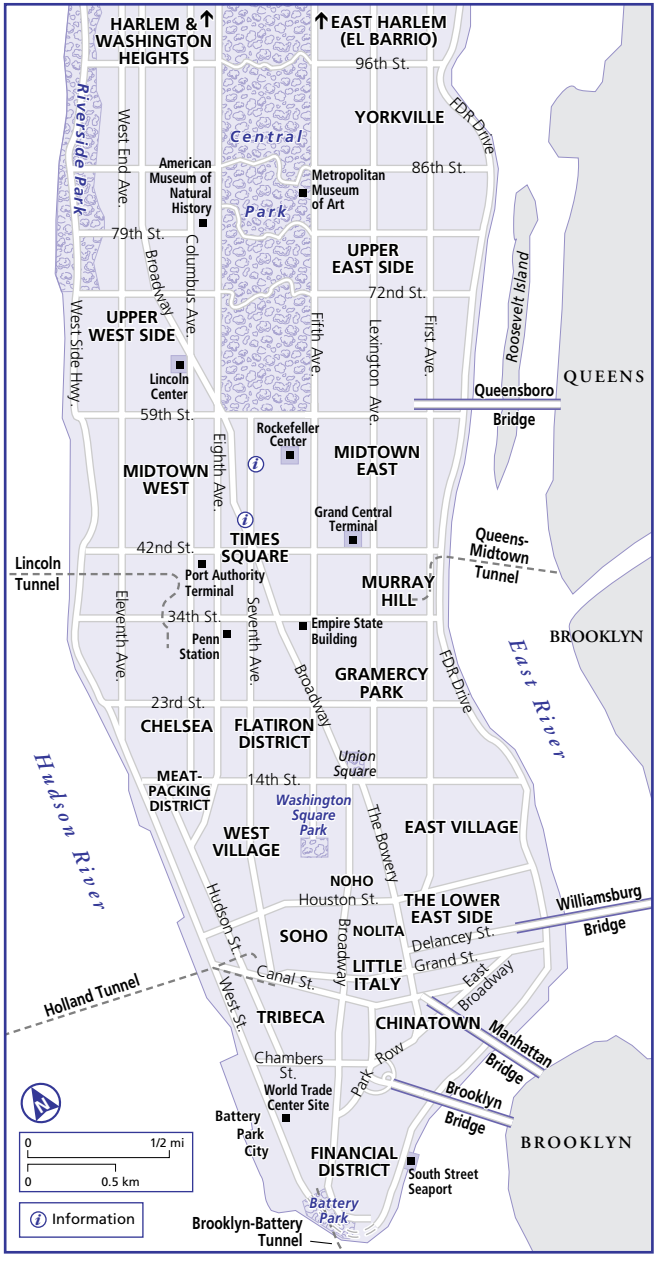
New York's neighborhoods and landmarks tend to be familiar even to first-time visitors. Many of the famous eras of the past are still layered into the modern metropolis. The West Village of the beatnik '50s bumps up against the activist East Village of the '60s, between funky '70s Harlem, greedy '80s Wall Street, and the geek-chic dotcommers of '90s Silicon Alley. There are traces of the more distant past, too: the 19th-century living on in Chelsea row houses, in Central Park's Victorian flourishes, and in the immortal span of the Brooklyn Bridge.

The nature of post-9/11 Gotham has yet to be determined. If current trends continue, Manhattan could be a velvet-rope town, open only to the rich, who get their coffee at one of the 162 local Starbucks and then hail a cab for their corporate marketing jobs. Or the economy could stay soft and hasten a return to the scary days, when city services were spotty and pedestrians walked quickly not for exercise, but for self-preservation. New Yorkers are hoping for a sympathetic compromise: a Manhattan that retains its color and grit without sacrificing the recent rise in quality of life.

This is an incredible time to visit New York. The city is all spruced up, and people are appreciating what they have here like never before. New York's recent trauma has made the city more civil than many long-time residents could ever have imagined. Come see us in flux. The pulse is waiting.

Think you're going to find that in any other place on earth? Fugheddaboudit.

# Map 1: Manhattan Neighborhoods



# YOU PROBABLY DIDN'T KNOW

**Where to find the best New York panorama...** The **Empire State Building** is a summit worth conquering, but it's on a very beaten track. Many feel that the best view of New York is from the harbor, aboard the ferries or the sightseeing boats (see "Diversions"). From a watery vantage point, you get to see the great skyscraper cliffs of New York, meeting in an awesome wedge at Battery Park, magnificently lit at sunset. But my favorite viewpoint is from the **Promenade** in Brooklyn Heights, cantilevered over the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway, providing nonpareil vistas of downtown and the Brooklyn Bridge. It's easy to get there; take the 2 or 3 train to Clark Street and walk toward the East River; then stroll back to Manhattan over the **Brooklyn Bridge,** with more magnificent views all the way. Though it's a diminished skyline after September 11, 2001, seeing it is also a reminder of just how much we have left.

**How to get the best view of Ground Zero...** It seems callous to think of Ground Zero as just another tourist attraction on the city's checklist, but it has become one of the city's most popular destinations and many visitors take solace from just seeing the area firsthand. In the first few months Ground Zero was a dramatic sight. Twisted World Trade Center wreckage rose out of a steaming hole and no matter how many times you went by, it still came as a punch in the stomach. After 2 years of rubble-clearing, however, the initial raw horror of the scene is gone. Ground Zero today is just a big open space reinforced with concrete, indistinguishable from a run-of-the-mill construction pit if you don't know that it's a final resting place for thousands of victims. New York forms scar tissue quickly, and normal daily life has returned to the area, cabs honking on the street and guests coming in and out of the Millennium Hilton. The ad hoc memorials that originally surrounded the site have been replaced by a uniform series of placards. The area's history is recounted along the fence at Church Street, just west of Ground Zero. More moving are temporary memorial boards, listing the names of the fallen heroes of 9/11. Most, if not all, New Yorkers keep 9/11 somewhere close in their heads and hearts, and Ground Zero is a good place to be reminded of the incredible sacrifices so many people made that day. It is comforting somehow to be among the crowds and share in a communal feeling. For a view of the site with a little perspective, go to the **Winter Garden** (tel 212/945-2600; open 24 hours), 1 block west. Walk toward the Hudson River and enter the World Financial Center at South End Avenue or Vesey Street. Follow the signs for the Winter Garden, in the center of the complex. The Winter Garden was basically totaled by the collapsing towers, but you'd never guess it to look at the towering Washingtonia robusta palm trees and gleaming marble inside the atrium. Walk up the stairs and look east through the panoramic windows, and you'll have an elevated view of Ground Zero. Once you get a grasp of the site's scale, you'll better comprehend the grief still underlying life in New York. Turn back and look at the pristine Winter Garden to appreciate how incredibly resilient this city is.

**How to stay out of trouble...** Crime and big cities are firmly linked in many people's minds, and since New York is *the* big city, it must be Crime City too, right? Well, no. In fact, it doesn't even make the Top 100. In recent years, the major crime rate has fallen faster in New York than in any other U.S. city. New York has 38,400 cops keeping it that way. Frankly, I've felt more nervous out in the sticks. Most New Yorkers have cultivated a certain way of moving about the city that functions like a protective shield; they act as if they know where they're going, even when they don't. The New York Police Department advises visitors not to flash their cash, credit cards, and expensive jewelry; men should keep their wallets in front pants pockets, and women shouldn't let their handbags dangle or hang from the backs of chairs; fasten all the locks at the hotel, and put your valuables in the safe. People will tell you not to make eye-contact on the subway, or even out on the street, and it's sound advice. Unfortunately, it's almost impossible to follow. New Yorkers are too fascinating not to study, and everyone moves so fast that you can get away with a glance here and there (everybody but tourists does it). In general, use your common sense. If you notice something out of line up ahead, just casually cross the street. Favorite spots for pickpockets include crowded buses, sardine-packed subway cars, and sidewalk crowds gathered around three-card monte games or street performers. It's an unfortunate fact of life here that one of the things that keeps the city so civil is that you're never quite sure who you're dealing with. That scruffy-looking dude walking toward you could be a dot.com millionaire and that guy in the suit and tie might be a psychopath. With 8 million people wandering around, there's no way to tell what exactly you're getting into, so treat all strangers with a measure of civility. It's not bad advice even outside of New York City.

**How to walk the walk...** Sure, you know how to walk. But in New York, it helps to walk like a New Yorker. Day or night, sidewalks in Midtown are jammed. In the rejuvenated Times Square area, as many as 8,500 people will pass a given point per hour. And research shows that New York pedestrians walk 30% faster than those in smaller cities. It's like driving the Interstate: Keep up with the traffic, or else a hectic situation gets worse. Keep to the right when possible. The locals don't all follow this rule—some pride

themselves on their skill at cutting in and out of slower-moving pedestrians, but if you keep right, you're more likely to avoid the Sidewalk Two-Step. Jaywalking is considered a civic right in New York and Guiliani-era attempts to ticket the offense have been discarded, but it's still a game that takes a certain amount of skill. New York drivers have as much sporting instinct as those in Mexico City or Karachi. From a strictly legal standpoint, they're not allowed to run into you, but unless you've got a few years of practice it's best to wait on corners and cross with the lights. When you step off the curb, it's also not a bad idea to check your peripheral vision for speeding two-wheelers. If our bicycle messengers have no compunction about crossing busy avenues against the traffic, you can imagine they aren't too concerned about barreling kamikaze-style the wrong way down a one-way street.

**How to talk the talk...** With 250 different languages spoken in New York, finding the "right" way of saying something can be a highly subjective task. There are, however, a couple of universally New York quirks worth noting. Houston Street downtown isn't pronounced "Hyuston" like the Texas city, but rather "Howston," as the local family pronounced their name. New Yorkers don't get "in line," we get "on line." The subway lines are marked by colors, but the same color can branch off in very different directions, so it's better to refer to the trains by their number or letter. If you order a regular coffee here, you're ordering milk and sugar. Should you want to pass for a Jersey visitor, pronounce it cawfee. And that odd foreign phrase on the signs posted on Brooklyn's borders? *Fugheddaboudit.*

**How to get around underground...** New York's subway is a modern miracle and as authentic a New York experience as you're going to find. Even though the system is over a century old, 3.5 million people use it every day. Some 25 lines ply 238 miles of track—for a map, ask at a token booth or call the MTA at 718/330–1234, and also ask for the "Token Trips" brochure, describing how to visit 150 major attractions via the subway. It's hard to be more than a few blocks away from a train in Manhattan, unless you're at a far fringe of the island. The subway never closes, with trains running all through the night every night (so long as there isn't a historic, region-wide blackout). In the

very wee hours the interval between trains is about 20 minutes, but during rush hours often a train has barely left the station before another one comes rolling in. The weekday hours between 8 and 9 in the morning and 5 and 6 in the evening are the biggest crushes. During rush hours the train will be much faster and less frustrating than trying to ply the city by bus or cab. The subway remains a bargain, despite the recent and controversial fare hike. Taking a cue from Wall Street, the MTA cooked its books to justify a whopping 33% increase in the price of a trip. The Straphangers Campaign, a riders' advocacy group, successfully sued to roll back the hike, but Governor Pataki managed to outmaneuver them. At press time, New Yorkers were grudgingly paying $2 per ride, with no sign of that easing.

In 2003, the subway token was laid to rest, finally displaced by the MetroCard (tel 212/638-7622). The card is entirely lacking in the token's iconic charm, but it does come with an advantage: discounts. If you spend more than $10 on a Pay-Per-Ride card, you'll get a 20% discount. There are also unlimited options if you intend to log a lot of trips on the Steel Cadillac. A daily Fun Pass will give you all you can ride for $7. For $21 you can get a 7-Day card, which is a full week's worth of trips. You can see your subway dollar at work in the maintenance and upgrades taking place throughout the system. There are frequent changes and cancellations, though they're mostly limited to late nights and weekends. Call the MTA at 718/330-1234 to get the latest rundown. Another change has been the introduction of new trains. If you ride the 2 or the 6 line, you'll be treated to the subway cars of the future: clean, well-lit places with digital displays and audible announcers.

Recently the MTA has posted signs on the subway with a hotline to call should you see a suspicious character. The irony is that a lot of train cars are filled with nothing but "suspicious-looking" characters. The subway is safer than it's been in decades, but there's no reason not to be cautious. Late at night ride in the center cars, which will be more populated. In the very wee hours, if you're traveling to a remote stop, you might feel more comfortable springing for a cab.

**How to drive around town...** If you find yourself behind the wheel of a car, GET OUT, GET OUT! Are you nuts? Traffic is jammed up everywhere, and between the cabs and the trucks you'll be lucky if you're not crushed. That said, I would rather drive in Manhattan than in downtown Boston or D.C. At least in New York the rules are followed fairly consistently: ignore those white "lane suggestion" lines, drive as fast as you can between clumps of traffic, and yield to pedestrians once they get within an inch or two of your bumper. Note also that there is no right turn on red anywhere in the city. Parking in lots will cost you a king's ransom, but with the city budget in shambles, the fine for a minor parking violation is now over $100. It's not worth finding out the hard way just how efficiently those parking rules are enforced.

**How to do lunch at an expensive restaurant and still have enough left over for dinner...** A couple of times a year New York celebrates **Restaurant Week** (generally in February and June, sometimes September, too) with great bargains on lunches at many of the city's top restaurants. Amazing but true. In 2003, lunches at high-end eateries like Cafe des Artistes, Gramercy Tavern, Montrachet, and Nobu cost just $20.03. Reservations made long in advance are generally required because New Yorkers—who always know a good deal when they see one—don't mind snatching the goodies out of tourists' mouths. For information, contact the **New York Visitors and Convention Bureau** (tel 212/484–1222).

**How to flag a taxi...** The white lights on the roofs of yellow cabs indicate which ones are free; the yellow "Off Duty" light means the driver is on his way home—though he may still stop and ask whether your destination lies along his route. Look for people disembarking from a taxi, hold the door open for them, and then snag the cab. It is very bad form to plant yourself in front of someone else signaling for a taxi in order to get the next one first. That doesn't mean you won't see some New Yorkers doing it. Be aware that it can be hard to find cabs between 4 and 6pm, when drivers are changing shifts, and the competition can be fierce late at night when the bars are letting out. A

pounding rainfall always makes it doubly hard to catch a cab. Many outer borough residents hedge their bets by calling on private car services (called "black cars" as opposed to "yellow cabs") when they're in less-trafficked areas. Two of the biggest are **Allstate** (tel 212/333-3333) and **Carmel** (tel 212/666-6666). They can be useful in Manhattan as well, especially if you're making a trip to the airport. After hours near bars in Brooklyn, black cars often wait around in search of fares. Unlike yellow cabs, black cars will sometimes negotiate with you. Compare a couple of prices before jumping in.

**Taxi Fair**

*Despite the enduring rerun success of the TV series Taxi, New York cabbies these days are more like the Andy Kaufman character, Latka, than like Judd Hirsch's Alex. Gone is the shrewd cabbie of legend, replaced by recent immigrants who speak little English and don't care how the Yankees are playing. Drivers are required to take you anywhere within the five boroughs and Westchester and Nassau counties, and should ask you to specify the route. They're supposed to be pros, so I often leave it up to them; but don't be shy about telling the driver to change his course if he (or she) gets caught in traffic or road construction. From Newark Airport and LaGuardia the routes to Midtown are fairly straightforward. JFK is another story—I suggest telling the driver to take the Long Island Expressway and Midtown Tunnel.*

**Where to smoke...** What would the Northeast of America be without a lingering Puritanical streak? We lost public drinking with Guiliani, and now Mayor Bloomberg has ushered in New York's smoke-free era. Basically there is no more indoor public smoking here outside of private homes (as the local graffiti reads, "Welcome to New York, surrender your freedoms at the bridge or tunnel."). Also, be warned, there's a new cigarette tax. Expect to pay at least $7 for a pack now.

**Where to find the facilities...** Those old tourist standbys, fast-food restaurants, are no guarantee of relief in New York. Many of the ones in heavy-traffic areas don't even have bathrooms for customers. Pretty much any major public place will have a restroom—Penn Station, Port Authority, Grand Central, Kmart—and in recent years the city has done a better job of keeping facilities safe and relatively clean. All but the tiniest parks have restrooms, too.

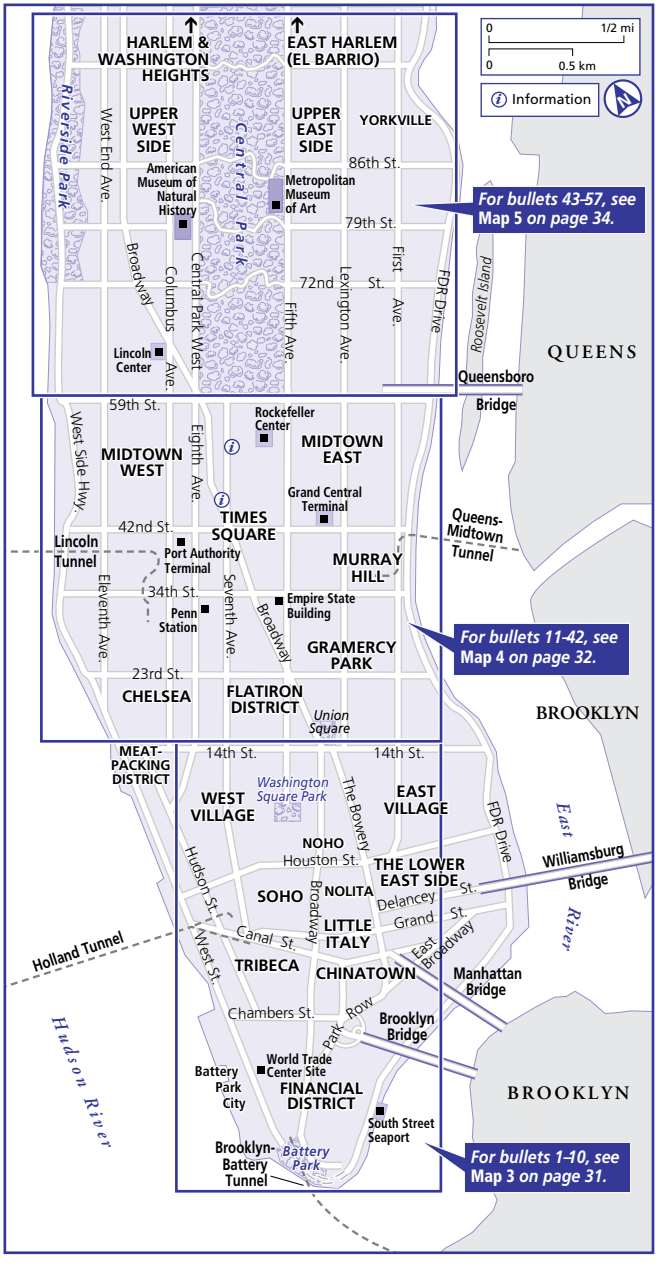
There's an excellent public restroom in **Bryant Park,** on 42nd Street between Fifth and Sixth avenues, which even has attendants, and a good one on the ground floor of the **New York Public Library** next door. Coffee shops and restaurants have bathrooms, though you should make a purchase before using them (even if it's only a cup of coffee to go). At night I find it easier slipping in and out of crowded bars.

# ACCOMM

# ODATIONS

# 1

# Map 2: Manhattan Accommodations—Orientation



# Basic Stuff

Your spirit of adventure may be urging you to come to New York, wander through the streets with your luggage in tow, and decide where to stay when someplace calls to you. If so, your spirit of adventure doesn't quite grasp the situation. New York has more than 60,000 hotel rooms—enough to house the entire population of Laredo, Texas—with more coming into service every week, and still the joint is bulging at the seams. On ordinary days the occupancy rate pushes 90%, and at peak times, such as school vacations and the Thanksgiving to Christmas madness, it is probably more like 105%. So unless you want to spend your vacation in a motel off the turnpike in New Jersey, do your homework before you come: Research the city, pick a neighborhood that suits your frame of mind, and then choose lodgings as close to it as possible—in your price range, if possible. Which isn't as impossible as it sounds. Right around the corner from New York's luxury monoliths, you'll find some perfectly charming and less expensive "boutique" hotels, where you're closer to the city's fascinating street life and yet often enjoy nicer furnishings and more attentive service. Or you might consider the bed-and-breakfast route, where accommodations range from penthouse apartments to walk-ups. We've listed one of the best B&B agencies below. Those who decide to stay in a mid-priced or luxury hotel should bear in mind that a hotel concierge can become more valuable in New York than your best friend. These miracle workers sit patiently behind their desks in the hotel lobby, ever eager to locate last-minute theater tickets or recommend a little French restaurant that's perfect for popping the question (whatever that question may be).

### Winning the Reservations Game

The standard recommendation in New York is to make reservations a month ahead—even longer if you plan to be here between Thanksgiving and Christmas. Don't accept the first room price offered, especially from the higher-priced hotels. There are nearly always discount packages to be had, from "summer holidays" to "Christmas getaways" to "romantic weekends." These packages are advertised in the free **Big Apple Visitors Guide** published by the New York Convention and Visitors Bureau (tel 800/NYC-VISIT, or pick it up in person at 810 7th Ave.). In an attempt to draw people back into the city post–September 11, more than 100 hotels are (at the time of

printing) offering special rates. Go to **www.nycvisit.com** and click on the "Paint the Town Red White & Blue" logo for more information. Keep in mind that at some hotels, children under 12 stay free with their parents. And be sure to ask for corporate rates, even if you aren't part of a corporation. Desk clerks rarely check your credentials—they just want to fill the room. If you're stuck, the **Hotel Hotline** (tel 800/846-7666; fax 800/511-5317) is usually able to track down a room. As a very last resort, start calling hotels just after 6pm on the day you need the room. Most places cancel non-guaranteed reservations—what the industry calls "timers"—at 6pm, so something just may turn up. Hotel tax in Manhattan is a stiff 13.25%, plus $2 per room per night. Taxes are not included in the price listings below.

### Is There a Right Address?

There is a New York neighborhood for *every* personal philosophy and lifestyle, but traditionally the "right" residential address has been the East Sixties, Seventies, and Eighties—the white-glove **Upper East Side.** Here one finds the city's most elegant and snooty shops, town houses, hotels, and nearly all the members of New York's upper crust. Come summer, the East Side's a ghost town as the wealthy flee the heat for the Hamptons. Head across Central Park for the **Upper West Side,** a funkier, more family-oriented scene of century-old town houses and rambling vintage apartment buildings. Bounded on the north by Columbia University, by Lincoln Center on the south, and bracketed by Central Park and Hudson-hugging Riverside Park, this area's museums, theaters, affordable restaurants and hotels, and boutique shopping make it a pleasant place to hang. **Midtown,** running from Central Park South to the Thirties, is Manhattan's central business district and the chief hotel zone, convenient for tony Fifth Avenue shopping, the theater district, and expense-account restaurants galore. The best and costliest hotels are on Central Park South; room rates generally descend as you work your way south. Head south on Fifth Avenue and you'll bump into the triangular Flatiron Building at 23rd Street, which has lent its name to the very hot **Flatiron District,** where models and trendoids haunt a score of high-profile bars and restaurants. There are few hotels around the Flatiron, but you can enjoy the pulse of this happening area by staying in peaceful **Gramercy Park,** a few blocks to the east, or trendy **Chelsea** to the west, gentrified by an ambitious gay community. Downtown starts at 14th Street, the northern border of

**Greenwich Village.** The home of New York University and vibrant Washington Square Park, this neighborhood of neat 19th-century brownstones is where generations of bohemians have made their mark. Jazz clubs, coffee shops, romantic restaurants, and proximity to Little Italy, SoHo, the East Village (home of cutting-edge clubs and punky new bohemians), and the West Village (capital of gay America—with Chelsea coming in now as a close and younger-populated runner–up) should make this area ripe for hotels. Oddly enough, though, good hotels are hard to find here—unless you're willing to put up with tiny rooms, tenement housing, or a bed-and-breakfast room, you may have to commute to this playground. The southern tip of Manhattan—occupied by the **South Street Seaport** area to the east, the loft spaces of urban-hip **TriBeCa** to the northwest, **Battery Park City** to the west, and **Wall Street** at the very bottom—are still soldiering on after the WTC attacks, with many hotels still up and running and wanting your business.

# The Lowdown

**Places to misbehave...** Just off Times Square, the **Paramount,** with its Whiskey Bar, whimsical acid-colored Philipe Starck furniture, and weirdly furnished (also very, very tiny) rooms, is the place to meet kindred souls if you work in advertising and are under 35. Media and showbiz types prefer the **Royalton**'s Club 44, where you might catch a glimpse of Claudia Schiffer or Tina Brown before retreating to your higher-budget Starck bed upstairs. If your hypercool all-black outfit is by Yamamoto or Armani, you'll fit right in at the **Mercer,** with its SoHo location and a celeb-heavy cast of regulars. The mockably hip and fashionable crowd can also be found at the **TriBeCa Grand,** where you may well bump into your favorite popstar on the verge of a nervous breakdown. All pretensions aside, though, the smallish guest rooms here afford more luxury than most rooms twice their size.

**For culture vultures...** Performers and ticket-holders alike find a temporary home at the **Empire,** directly across from Lincoln Center. From designers' models of opera sets in the tony brass-and-mahogany lobby to the CD players in every (sometimes quite small) room, this hotel should

make arts aficionados very happy. Way uptown and to the east, **Hotel Wales,** a renovated Victorian with banners flying, offers a sweet, intimate alternative to the larger and more expensive hotels near Museum Mile. Downtown devotees might try the dreary-but-cheap **Washington Square Hotel** for its dinner-and-jazz package, or the **Incentra Village House,** a small, antique-filled inn with turn-of-the-century Village bohemian aura. The **SoHo Grand** sets you down right at the epicenter of SoHo's galleries, clubs, restaurants, and cutting-edge boutiques. Come evening, the bar, lobby lounge, and four-star restaurant fill up with a young, hipper-than-thou crowd. The **Mercer** is smaller and more laid back but even more at the epicenter of the thriving SoHo scene. **Off Soho Suites,** a clean, bright, and inexpensive all-suite hotel in an unlikely Lower East Side neighborhood, is close to downtown plays, poetry readings, and galleries; many European and Australian travelers stay here, along with downtown musicians and those who write about them.

**Endearingly eccentric...** New York breeds rugged individualists of all types; among those who get off on sharing their life view with the world is James Knowles, the artist-owner of the **Roger Smith,** a lighthearted Midtown hotel decorated on the outside with a delightful, cartoonlike

### Deal Breakers

*Breaks on Manhattan hotel prices are urgently needed; fortunately, they're increasingly available. The clean, reasonably comfortable, no-frills* ***Malibu Studios Hotel*** *on the Upper West Side — farther up Broadway than some may want to go, in a cruddy though safe-enough neighborhood — caters to young Europeans and students with very limited budgets. The faded but surprisingly comfortable* ***Excelsior*** *offers reasonable rooms near Central Park for older fans of the Upper West Side. The* ***Ameritania*** *provides theater-district rooms with marble baths, a fitness room, and a waterfall in the lobby for around $200 per night. The smart, pretty* ***Mansfield*** *on 44th Street is in the same price range, and you can hang out in the lobbies of the* ***Royalton*** *and the* ***Algonquin*** *down the block. Farther downtown, near the Empire State Building, you'll find it hard to believe that the comfortably old fashioned* ***Avalon*** *is actually one of Manhattan's newer hotels — as well as one of it's more reasonably priced. The* ***Larchmont,*** *in the center of Greenwich Village, is quiet, charming, and cheap.* ***Off Soho Suites*** *answers downtowners' needs for low prices and sane desk clerks. And* ***Urban Ventures, Inc.*** *can provide you with a bed-and-breakfast room in someone's apartment for less than $100 per night.*

mural (inside it's jam-packed with an assortment of high-quality paintings and sculptures). The **Box Tree** hotel takes art one step further; the walls, ceilings, and even the guest-room doors are playfully adorned. The **Inn at Irving Place,** just south of Gramercy Park, is so uncommercial it doesn't even have a sign; this luxuriously restored Victorian brownstone specializes in fashion models and celebrities who value their privacy.

**Twilight zones...** Even in New York there's eccentric, and then there's going too far. The Lifetime Achievement Award goes to the **Chelsea Hotel,** where William Burroughs wrote **Naked Lunch** and Sid and Nancy nodded out. The scene is seedy, but the spacious renovated rooms with fireplaces can be a fun place to spend a night. The **Carlton Arms,** to the east, takes up where the Chelsea leaves off, letting young artists stay for free if they'll decorate their rooms; every surface, from the steps leading to the tiny second-floor lobby to hallways decked with "conceptual" clotheslines hung with lingerie and long johns, is an expression of what appears to be howling New York–visitor angst (or plain psychosis).

**So very literary...** The **Algonquin** is the obvious choice, and it can be amusing to watch Matilda the Algonquin cat lick her privates while you trade **bon mots** in the cozy,

### New York's Celluloid Alter-Ego

*If you want to prepare yourself for a visit to the Big Apple, rent a flick. The classics are:* **Miracle on 34th Street** *(1947) for sweetness and light at Christmastime;* **Breakfast at Tiffany's** *(1961) for bittersweetness à la Truman Capote and Audrey Hepburn in Givenchy gowns; The* **Sweet Smell of Success** *(1957) with Tony Curtis and Burt Lancaster as two rats chasing celebrity and power. Woody Allen's* **Annie Hall** *(1977) is all about Upper East Side chic in the days before Woody and Mia's split revealed its seamy side, while his* **Manhattan** *(1979) shows off the city in glorious black and white. For a grittier taste of the city, try* **Serpico** *(1974) with Al Pacino, Greenwich Village, and corrupt factions in the NYPD;* **The Godfather** *(1971) and* **The Godfather Part II** *(1974) for the other side of the badge. If you want a love story, grab Cher's* **Moonstruck** *(1987) about a nice Brooklyn-Italian girl who wants something more from life than pasta.* **Midnight Cowboy** *(1969), perfectly perverse, sad, yet lovable, features Dustin Hoffman and Jon Voight as two New York losers.*

antique-filled lobby, where the Round Table actually held court. Meanwhile, editors of ***Vanity Fair*** and ***Vogue*** settle into the sleek postmodern bar of the **Royalton** across the street, where they can gossip all night while ***New Yorker*** editors try to listen in. The **Lowell** actually equips its suites' bookshelves with interesting volumes and claims a number of authors among its loyal clientele—though you'd have to be a Clancy, Collins, or King to afford this joint. And the **Chelsea Hotel** has a raffish literary past, numbering writers such as Dylan Thomas, William Burroughs, and Tennessee Williams among its former guests.

**Luscious love nests...** The **Michelangelo**'s spacious rooms, king-size beds, and marble-clad Italian charm lend themselves to a perfect weekend getaway. The **Lowell,** although prim-looking on the outside, coyly reveals fireplace-and-terrace suites designed to rekindle the coldest flame. If you and your lover share the same gender, try the gay-friendly **Incentra Village House,** a double-townhouse in the West Village filled with antiques, or the gay-frequented **Chelsea Pines Inn,** a bed-and-breakfast where each room is dedicated to a faded movie star, and breakfast in the rear garden makes for a romantic morning-after.

**For stargazing...** Celebrity hounds must absolutely stop by the **Royalton,** not only to scope out the talent, but also to try to find the stalls in the overdesigned restrooms downstairs. If you consider checking out fashion models "stargazing," dine alfresco across from Gramercy Park's **Inn at Irving Place,** or book a room at the East Side's **Franklin** and spend a few hours lurking in the postmodern breakfast room off the lobby. **Morgans** is where celebrities go when they don't want to be seen, but keep your eyes open as you pass through the small black-and-white lobby with the checkerboard trim, and you might catch one slipping out the anonymous side entrance. The bar at **The Mark** is another good fishing spot.

**Hotels with history...** The **Algonquin,** for its very well-preserved downstairs. The **Best Western Seaport Inn** sits in the perfect spot for those curious about New York's early seafaring days, when Wall Street was a street with a wall and nothing more. The **Chelsea Hotel** will make you

relive the sixties, whether you want to or not—wall-to-wall paintings, piles of revolutionary tracts, tacky furniture, and a collection of dazed-looking residents and animals hanging out in the lobby help keep the Andy Warhol era going. You can dine and dance in the grand ballroom at the **Waldorf-Astoria** as if World War II never happened; if there's no event in the ballroom, just while away some time in the glorious main lobby, near the famed bronze and mahogany clock. The **Plaza**'s more spacious rooms and the restaurants downstairs will have you feeling like you're on an ocean liner. The virginal **Melrose Hotel,** once a women's residence for such transients as Grace Kelly, Ali McGraw, and Candice Bergen, retains a cloisterlike quality with narrow corridors and tidy studio rooms. In his youth, J. D. Salinger used to come here to meet girls. Given his love of privacy, it is unclear if he met any. These days, both genders are allowed to stay here.

**Such Indexision**

*For more in-depth commentary on each hotel, check out **The Index** at the back of the chapter. Along with our incredibly incisive hotel reviews (not that we're biased or anything), you'll find all the information necessary to make your reservations.*

**Silent nights...** Silence in New York sounds like an oxymoron, but there really are peaceful enclaves to settle into. Think of the faded Grand Hotel in the last small midwestern town you visited, put it in a turn-of-the-century New York neighborhood, and that's what the **Gramercy Park Hotel** is like. The antique-filled, eight-room **Inn at Irving Place,** just a couple of blocks away, provides silence and privacy as well, but at a high price. **Morgans,** a cousin of the Royalton, insulates its reticent celebrity guests with blessed quiet, but the trade-off is a room with no view, whose walls are the mottled gray-brown of the inside of a cardboard box.

**Broadway bound...** The **Millennium Broadway**'s 33 soundproof executive boardrooms and its sleek, black tower may be a corporate wet dream to some, but at 44th Street off Broadway, it's a sexy place for a theater-and-dinner weekend as well. The lobby's leather lounge chairs and black marble floors give way to cream-colored upstairs rooms whose glass walls offer killer city views. The more relaxed,

Italian-owned **Michelangelo,** 5 blocks up Broadway, offers a choice of room design: Empire, Art Deco, or French Provincial. **Ameritania,** a former SRO hotel nicely renovated by gentrification genius Hank "Location, Location, Location" Freid, sits next door to the Ed Sullivan Theater (home of ***Late Night with David Letterman***): It offers decent rooms with marble bathrooms and the very same views for $200 less than the Michelangelo. Bottom-rung among the Broadway hotels is the 1,300-room **Milford Plaza,** which has much the same ambience as an airport terminal. Lines to the front desk form behind a velvet rope, and it's often necessary to wait 20 minutes just to pick up your room key. A prime destination for flight attendants and talk-show guests, but at least there's *always* a room.

**Old faithfuls...** Always the first to come to mind is the venerable **Plaza,** a French-Renaissance pile docked at the southeast corner of Central Park. Frank Lloyd Wright once claimed this was one of the few buildings he liked that he hadn't designed himself. The flags flying over the front entrance tell you which heads of state you'll be sharing the facilities with. The **Waldorf-Astoria** presides over Park Avenue, its Art Deco lobbies returned to their past splendor, though its guest roster is no longer as grand. Happily, the **Algonquin** functions much as it did in the days of Dorothy Parker and the Round Table—in the wood-paneled lobby, at least, where graying authors of both sexes, ensconced in armchairs, ogle young women in leopardskin coats.

**For travelers with old money...** The **Pierre**'s romantically frescoed downstairs rooms teem with European film directors, as well as American heiresses; even Hollywood types turn up frequently, now that Barney's has set up shop next door. Miraculously, the staff is alert and deferential, no matter who you are—unlike the help at the **Plaza-Athénée,** where you get the feeling you should show proof of a high income before walking through the door. Over on Park Avenue, the **Regency** continues to shelter movers and shakers. If you dislike feeling forced to dress for dinner, you may prefer the gracious **Stanhope Park Hyatt,** where the high tea is perfectly English, and you can people-watch like a Parisian on the Terrace, sipping an aperitif and overlook-ing the tourist frenzy at the Metropolitan Museum of Art across the street.

**For travelers with new money...** If your reason for being in New York is to spend cash, then the **Plaza,** at the top of the Fifth Avenue shopping district, in view of Bergdorf Goodman and FAO Schwarz, is the place to stay. Big hair, Mid-west accents, and slack-jawed kids crowd the lobby, where plainclothes security guards warily eye all but the wealthiest. Visitors bored with the Plaza might move up the ladder to the **New York Palace,** a modern black tower jammed behind the 100-year-old Villard House. Formerly owned by the infamous Leona Helmsley, the Palace lies in the shadow of St. Patrick's Cathedral, and its ornate public rooms put both the Plaza and St. Patrick's to shame—too bad the guest rooms don't live up to them. Visitors who've made their money in Hollywood would feel most at home at the **Mark,** a sleek East Sider where producers strike deals just crossing the lobby to the bar.

**Park views to die for...** What used to be the Ritz–Carlton is now the **Central Park Intercontinental;** but the superb location is still the same. Rooms at the **Luxury Collection Hotel,** from about the eighth floor up, offer the Central Park views people want on their honeymoons. Even the small fitness center lets you look at the trees while aerobicizing. Avoid the rear rooms—their windows face a wall. It's no surprise that the **Plaza**'s parkside vistas are as nice as the Hotel-Formerly-Known-As-Ritz's—it's just a block down the road. Over on Central Park West, the **Mayflower** offers less opulent rooms-with-a-view for substantially less. Then there's **The Stanhope Park Hyatt,** whose best quarters reveal the park and the Metropolitan Museum of Art as you've never seen them before.

**May I get that for you, sir?...** The Upper East Side's **Stanhope Park Hyatt** specializes in cherubic European clerks who contribute charm and a sense of humor as well as strictly professional service. The **Lowell**'s people are also young, and sweetly earnest about performing well. At **Incentra Village House,** you can cozy up in the hotel's small parlor and chat with the owner about places to see and things to do.

**It's a small world...** The **Holiday Inn Downtown** is not what you think it is—at least, not quite. Smack in the middle of Chinatown, the hotel hosts many Chinese guests,

and its Pacifica Bar and Restaurant can cook up some excellent Cantonese cuisine. The **Fitzpatrick Manhattan Hotel,** on Lexington Avenue in the East Fifties, is owned by an Irish company, which is obvious because *everything* in it is green. Irish lilts pour forth from the desk clerks' mouths, and Fitzer's, the hotel's Irish bar, is extremely popular among (largely Irish) guests and locals. The best time to stay at the **Super 8 Hotel Times Square** is during the Brazilian Street Festival in September, when this Midtown neighborhood comes alive with samba rhythms and Brazilian dancers. The hotel itself is nothing special, but if you like Brazilian food (and Brazilian tourists), this is the place to be. For those who like their ethnic culture world-transforming, the ambience at the **Millennium U.N. Plaza,** across from the U.N., is highly international, with a multilingual staff and exotic flavors proffered at the Ambassador Grill.

**Elbow room...** **The Swissôtel New York—The Drake**'s are spacious but disappointingly bland; the **Four Seasons**' are enormous but heartstoppingly priced; the **Michelangelo**'s are just right—especially on Valentine's Day and New Year's Eve weekends, when they're on sale.

**Location, location, location...** **Best Western Seaport Inn,** a fully restored, 19th-century, pink-brick building between the Brooklyn Bridge and South Street Seaport, provides an excellent departure point for walks around Old New York—and even delivers a bit of colonial sea-captain's ambience at a decent price, though the rooms are motel-like. The rooms at the **Washington Square Hotel** are disappointingly motel modern, too, but their mid–Greenwich Village location makes possible walks around NYU, Little Italy, SoHo, and the East and West Villages. The **Larchmont Hotel** offers a quieter and more charming Village experience. If you want to be close to the 57th Street galleries and Madison Avenue shops, without dropping a fortune, the new **Habitat** may be your ticket. The comfy dowager **Mayflower** is a good, mid-priced starting point for walks around Central Park and the Upper West Side. And if you prefer to stroll the rarified precincts of Sutton Place and the East Side, the recently built **Bentley** may suit you.

**Eye-popping city views...** Check in after dark at the **Millennium U.N. Plaza,** and you'll open your curtains to a heart-stopping east-Midtown view of the city lights—guaranteed, since all rooms are on the 28th floor or above. The **SoHo Grand** gives you both worlds; rooms on the north side face Midtown, dominated by the Empire State and Chrysler buildings, while those on the south offer up the cluster of Wall Street skyscrapers.

**Drop-dead décor...** The **Four Seasons,** for its sycamore-paneled dressing rooms and a columned Grand Foyer with a 33-foot onyx ceiling, conceived by architect I.M. Pei; the **Lowell,** for its perfect mix of French antiques and modern accents; the **Box Tree,** for best impersonation of a private home, complete with 17th-century oil paintings, Tiffany panels, and roaring fireplaces, all in a slender East Side double-brownstone; the **Pierre,** for its frescoed Rotunda and mahogany-furnished rooms; and the **Peninsula,** for the grand staircase rising to the cream and black Adrienne restaurant.

**For shopoholics...** The **Plaza** is best, within sight of Bergdorf Goodman, FAO Schwarz, and most other places visitors like to shop. With its center-of-the-Soho-mall location, the **SoHo Grand** is the best bet if you want to hit the area boutiques, or if you happen to want some over-priced street art. If you prefer Bloomingdale's, try **The Melrose Hotel** (formerly The Barbizon Hotel): Rates are low (that's because rooms can be snug), but tower suites have terraces and city views. In the same high-rent neighborhood, the **Habitat** has even smaller rooms and lower rates. The Italian-operated **Jolly Madison Towers** is popular among shoppers for its East Side location, efficient service, predictable if standard-issue furnishings, and reasonable price.

**For the body beautiful...** **The Peninsula** wins hands-down, with its 35,000-square-foot health club, glass-enclosed rooftop gym, 42-foot pool with a view of all Midtown, beauty salon, body and skin care, massage and facial service, sauna, and, finally, a sun deck. The **Millennium U.N. Plaza** isn't bad, with its 27th-floor health club, indoor pool, tennis courts, sauna, and exercise

room. The **Lowell** can provide you with a sumptuous "Gym Suite," which consists of your own private windowed-and-mirrored gym, in addition to the usual large fireplace, full kitchen, and outdoor terrace for dining. (The gym is rumored to have been installed at Madonna's request, and is priced accordingly.) More economical bodily treats are available at the **West Side** and **Vanderbilt YMCA**s: one near Lincoln Center, the other close to Grand Central, both offering cheap if spartan rooms, most without private baths, with full use of the gym, pool, and other Y facilities.

**Suite deals...** Especially popular with relocating corporate execs and families, suites are also taking hold among short-term visitors. Among the best suite hotels is the **Surrey** on the Upper East Side, with kitchenettes or full kitchens, spacious rooms, and somewhat lavish decor for this sort of hotel. **Off Soho Suites,** in its funky Lower East Side location, is the best priced of the lot; the executive-class **RIHGA Royal**'s 600-square-foot suites with French doors and elaborate marble bathrooms should have most visitors feeling like kings, or at least like CEOs.

**Taking care of business...** The **Millennium Broadway**'s four-story Conference Center, state-of-the-art audiovisual facilities, and its own personal Broadway theater available for corporate presentations make this an ideal venue for any kind of business activity. The staff is accustomed to serving business needs, and rooms feature dual-line telephones, interactive communication systems, and so on. **The Swissôtel New York—The Drake** caters to no-nonsense types who want their suits back from the cleaners when promised; expect spruced, good-size rooms in a prime Midtown location. Go up the price scale, and the clean-lined, Japanese-owned **RIHGA Royal** brings the corporate climber's ultimate fantasy to life, with its hierarchical room structure—"royal suites" have minimal luxury appointments; "imperial suites" are higher up, with city views; and "pinnacle suites" at the top offer chauffeured rides to and from the airport, personalized business cards, and private phone and fax numbers.

**Family values...** The slightly shabby **Excelsior,** situated across the street from the American Museum of Natural

History (and the Rose Center for Earth and Space) and half a block from the playgrounds of Central Park, is perfect for little ones who love dinosaurs. In the morning, take the kids to the coffee shop off the lobby for eggs. The upscale suites at the **Surrey** on the Upper East Side provide enough space for kids and enough comfort for parents, as well as kitchens for making peanut-butter-and-jelly sandwiches when the kids can't face another restaurant. Worn furnishings at the **Gramercy Park Hotel** can take your kids' abuse, and many rooms have handy kitchenettes and sofa beds; pets are allowed, too. But best of all, the hotel will hand over a key to private Gramercy Park, where you can stroll with your baby from spring through fall. **Urban Ventures, Inc.** (tel 212/594–5650) provides entire empty apartments, which can be a blessing if your children loathe hotels.

**Frumpy but lovable...** So "Sin City" has lured you into naughty acts you regret the next morning? Come home to the **Mayflower,** a comfortable, somewhat frumpy establishment with paintings of clipper ships adorning a long lobby. Have a good dinner in the Conservatory Cafe, then go for a healthy jog across the street in Central Park, or to a chamber-music recital at nearby Juilliard. Broadway performers and, for some reason, middle-aged British tourists seem to feel secure at the **Wyndham** on 58th Street, another matronly hotel, with its apartment-like rooms and small upholstered lobby.

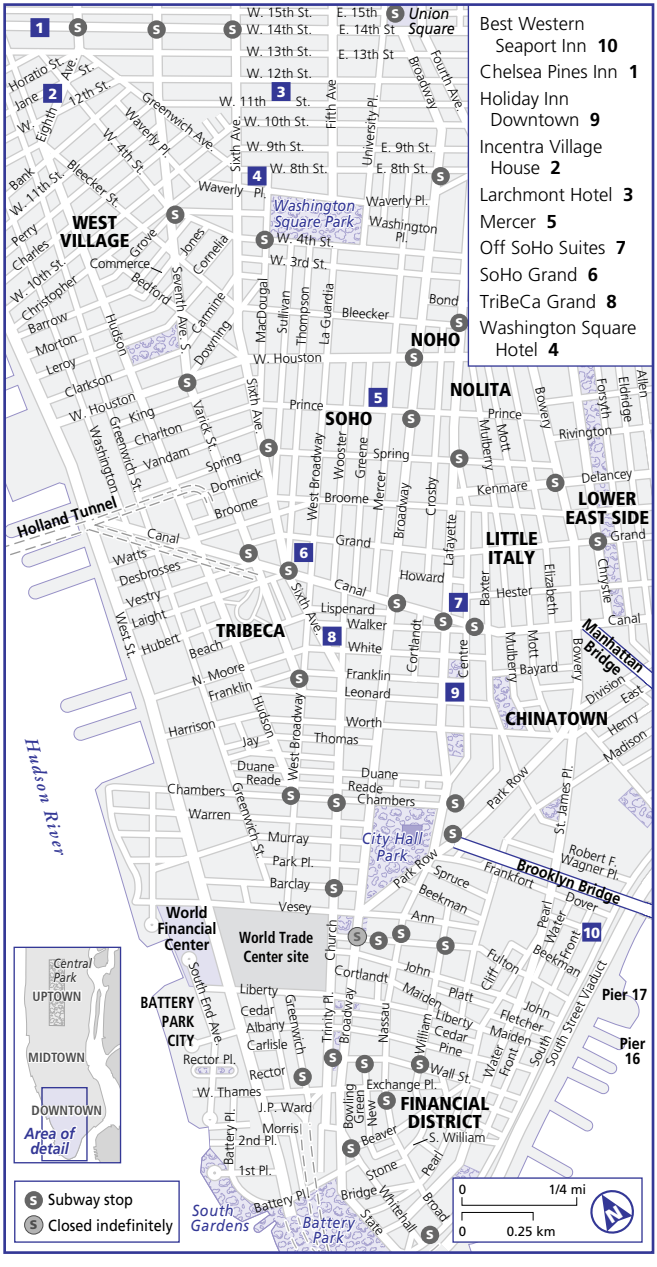
**Money's too tight to mention...** **Hostelling International of New York** is the largest AYH hostel in the U.S.; its Upper West Side landmark building takes up half a city block. Even if it didn't, you could easily spot it due to the crowds of Nordic backpackers converging on it from all directions. Rooms are dormitory-style and cost a pittance. The communal atmosphere in the roomy cafeteria, sunny library, pool hall, and large rear garden encourages interaction among the guests. The **West Side** and **Vanderbilt YMCA**s are also possibilities, with private rooms, though there's still communal life in the bathrooms.

**Ringing in the New Year...** The stylish **Royalton,** near, but not in the center, of Times Square, is a great place to

observe the crowds gathered to watch the ball fall; the comfortably priced **Ameritania** will put you at the hub of the action, right on Broadway's Great White Way. The **Plaza** often offers New Year's specials, as do many other New York hotels. Ask around.

**Try these when there's no room...** If you're desperate, try the **Days Hotel Midtown** on Eighth Avenue. Its location is pretty dreary, and its rooms pure cheap-motel. **Super 8 Hotel Times Square** on West 46th Street can usually offer Broadway theater-goers a last-minute room at a good price. The **Milford Plaza,** also in the theater district, is so enormous there's got to be space for you. Rooms are motel-like, but at least they have remote-control TV, in-room movies, individually controlled heat, and air-conditioning.

# Map 3: Downtown Accommodations



# Map 4: Accommodations in Midtown, Chelsea, the Flatiron District & Gramercy Park

- Algonquin **32**
- Ameritania **18**
- Avalon **38**
- Box Tree **25**
- Carlton Arms **39**
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- Days Hotel Midtown **24**
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- Four Seasons **14**
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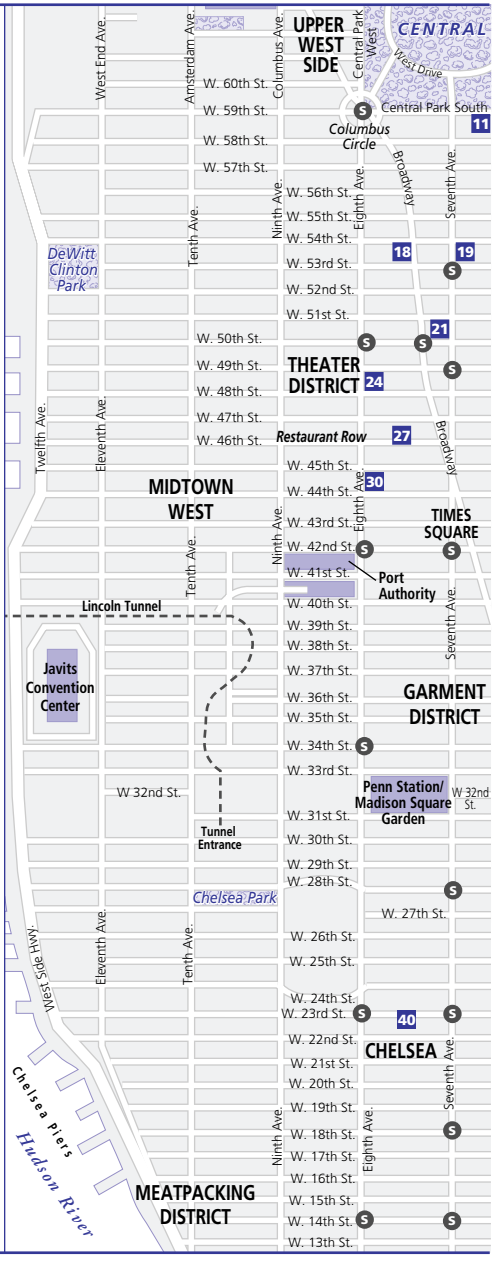
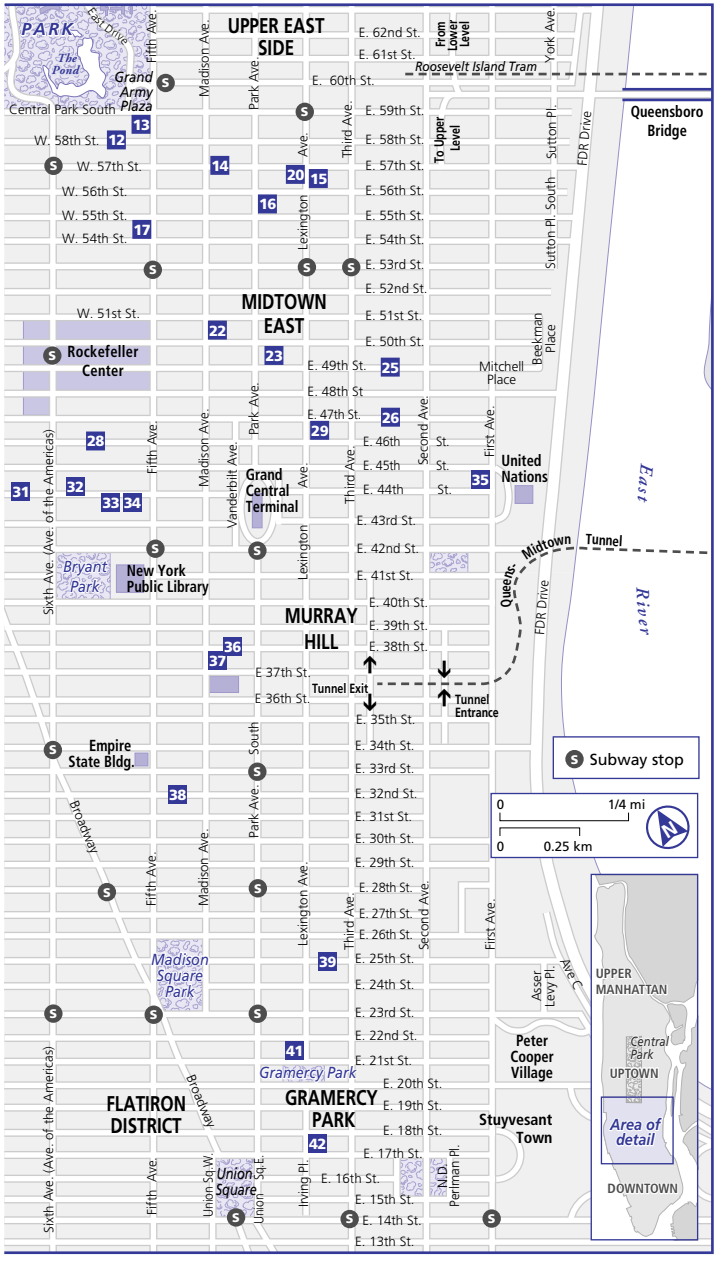
- Milford Plaza **30**
- Millennium Broadway **31**
- Millennium U.N. Plaza **35**
- Morgans Hotel **37**
- New York Palace **22**
- Paramount Hotel **27**
- The Peninsula Hotel **17**
- Plaza **13**
- RIHGA Royal Hotel **19**
- Roger Smith **29**
- Royalton **33**
- Super 8 Hotel Times Square **28**
- Swissôtel New York—The Drake **16**
- Vanderbilt YMCA **26**
- Waldorf-Astoria **23**
- Wyndham **12**




PARK
East Drive
The Pond
Grand Army Plaza
Central Park South
UPPER EAST SIDE
MIDTOWN EAST
Rockefeller Center
MURRAY HILL
Grand Central Terminal
New York Public Library
Bryant Park
Empire State Bldg.
Madison Square Park
Gramercy Park
FLATIRON DISTRICT
GRAMERCY PARK
Union Square
Peter Cooper Village
Stuyvesant Town
N.D. Perlman Pl.
Mitchell Place
Beekman Place
United Nations
Queensboro Bridge
Roosevelt Island Tram
From Lower Level
To Upper Level
Tunnel Exit
Tunnel Entrance
Midtown Tunnel
Queens
East River
FDR Drive
Sutton Pl.
Sutton Pl. South
York Ave.
First Ave.
Second Ave.
Third Ave.
Lexington Ave.
Park Ave.
Park Ave. South
Madison Ave.
Fifth Ave.
Vandebilt Ave.
Sixth Ave. (Ave. of the Americas)
Broadway
Irving Pl.
Union Sq. W.
Union Sq. E.
Asser Levy Pl.
Asser Levy Playground
UPPER MANHATTAN
Central Park
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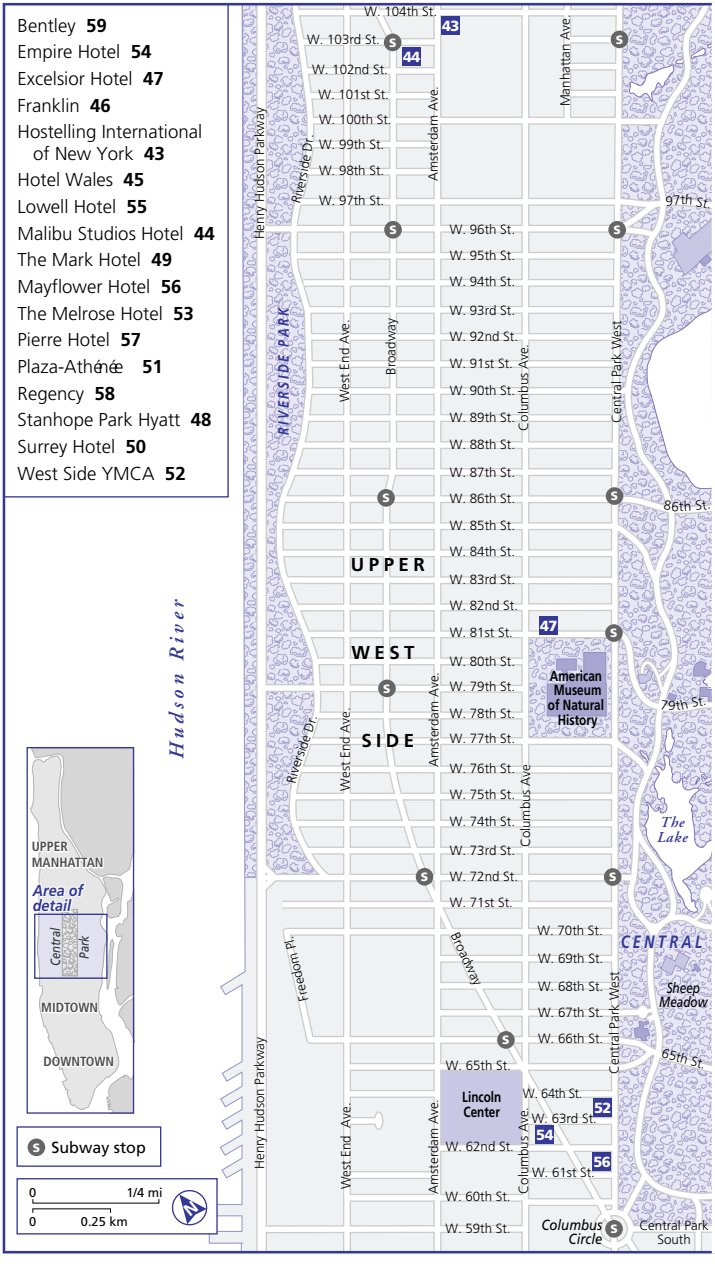
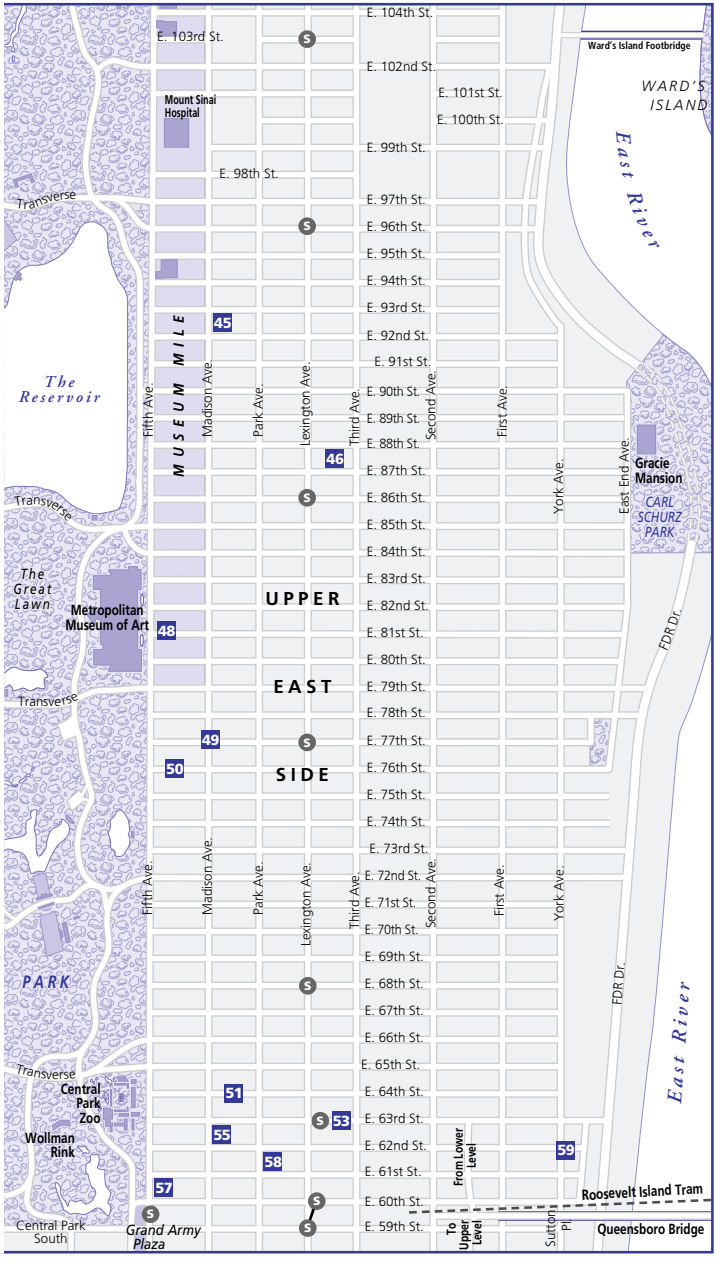
# Map 5: Uptown Accommodations

- Bentley **59**
- Empire Hotel **54**
- Excelsior Hotel **47**
- Franklin **46**
- Hostelling International of New York **43**
- Hotel Wales **45**
- Lowell Hotel **55**
- Malibu Studios Hotel **44**
- The Mark Hotel **49**
- Mayflower Hotel **56**
- The Melrose Hotel **53**
- Pierre Hotel **57**
- Plaza-Athénée **51**
- Regency **58**
- Stanhope Park Hyatt **48**
- Surrey Hotel **50**
- West Side YMCA **52**

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E. 61st St.
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E. 59th St.
Ward's Island Footbridge
WARD'S ISLAND
East River
Mount Sinai Hospital
Transverse
The Reservoir
MUSEUM MILE
Fifth Ave.
Madison Ave.
Park Ave.
Lexington Ave.
Third Ave.
Second Ave.
First Ave.
York Ave.
East End Ave.
Gracie Mansion
CARL SCHURZ PARK
FDR Dr.
The Great Lawn
Metropolitan Museum of Art
UPPER EAST SIDE
PARK
Central Park Zoo
Wollman Rink
Central Park South
Grand Army Plaza
From Lower Level
To Upper Level
Sutton Pl.
Roosevelt Island Tram
Queensboro Bridge
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59
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# The Index

| | |
|---|---|
| $$$$$ | More than $450 |
| $$$$ | $350–$450 |
| $$$ | $250–$350 |
| $$ | $150–$250 |
| $ | Less than $150 |

The following **abbreviations** are used for credit cards:

| | |
|---|---|
| AE | American Express |
| DC | Diners Club |
| DISC | Discover |
| MC | MasterCard |
| V | Visa |

**Algonquin (p. 20, 21, 22, 24)** MIDTOWN This classic New York literary landmark went through a big, expensive historical restoration, guided by photos from its 1902 opening. But don't worry, the atmosphere is still the same, only more so.... *Tel 800/555-8000, 212/840-6800. Fax 212/944-1419. www.algonquinhotel.com. 59 W. 44th St., 10036. N/Q/R/S/W/1/2/3/7/9 trains to 42nd St. 165 units. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. $$$*

**See Map 4 on p. 32, bullet 32.**

**Ameritania (p. 24, 30)** MIDTOWN WEST The lobby's silly imitation-Philipe Starck furniture (see Paramount below) fails to mar guests' satisfaction at getting a good deal. Some rooms have Broadway views. Two restaurants, a gift shop, and a lobby bar complete the picture—all done in an incongruous Caribbean style.... *Tel 800/922-0330, 212/247-5000. Fax 212/247-3316. www.nychotels.com/ameritania.html. 1701 Broadway, 10019. B/D/E trains to 7th Ave. 250 units. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. $$*

**See Map 4 on p. 32, bullet 18.**

**Avalon (p. 20)** MURRAY HILL The classic lobby and the trad-retro decor of the rooms give you no clue that this is one of the newest hotels in the shadow of the Empire State Building. The theater district and Silicon Alley are both an easy stroll away, and after you stroll back, you can loll in your marble-clad bathroom.... *Tel 888/442-8256, 212/299-7000. Fax 212/299-7001. www.theavalonny.com. 16 E. 32nd St. 10016, 6 train to 33rd St. 100 units. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. $$*

**See Map 4 on p. 32, bullet 38.**

**Bentley** (p. 26) UPPER EAST SIDE This new hotel is pretty far east, but so are some of the poshest neighborhoods in Manhattan. You're perfectly placed to hike along the East River, take the aerial tram to Roosevelt Island, or simply pull a velvet-covered chair up to the big window and watch the cars going over the 59th St. Bridge.... *Tel 888/664-6835, 212/644-6000. Fax 212/207-4800. www.nychotels.com/bentley.html. 500 E. 62nd St., 10021. 4/5/6 trains to 59th St. or N/R/W trains to Lexington Ave. 197 units. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. $$*

**See Map 5 on p. 34, bullet 59.**

**Best Western Seaport Inn** (p. 22, 24) SOUTH ST. SEAPORT AREA A chain mentality surfaces in the slightly cheesy reproduction furniture and the stiff, motelish bedding. Ask for a room with a view of the Brooklyn Bridge.... *Tel 800/HOTELNY, 212/766-6600. Fax 212/766-6615. www.bestwestern.com 33 Peck Slip, 10038. 1/2/4/5 train to Fulton St. 72 units. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. $$*

**See Map 3 on p. 31, bullet 10.**

**Box Tree Inn** (p. 21, 27) MIDTOWN EAST This small luxury hotel, an *Irreverent* favorite, offers some of the city's best dining at the renowned Box Tree Restaurant, where Continental cuisine is served (jacket and tie required) on Wedgwood china and Lalique crystal. Each bedroom has a different decor (British Empire, Chinese Empire, German Empire—you get the picture), a fireplace, and a fur throw on the antique, queen-size bed.... *Tel 212/758-8320. Fax 212/308-3899. www.boxtree.com 250 E. 49th St., 10017. 6 train to 51st St. 13 units. AE, DISC, MC, V. $$*

**See Map 4 on p. 32, bullet 25.**

**Carlton Arms** (p. 21) GRAMERCY PARK All the tenement-type rooms, decorated with wild murals, have sinks; some include a bathroom, while others use toilets and shower rooms down the hall. (***Warning:*** Though they're clean, the demon-head mosaics in the common bathrooms may make it difficult to concentrate.) Outrageous ambience at a decent price (students and foreign tourists get a 10% discount).... *Tel 212/679-0680. www.cartlon arms.com. 160 E. 25th St., 10010. 6 train to 23rd St. 54 units. DISC, MC, V. $*

**See Map 4 on p. 32, bullet 39.**

**Central Park Intercontinental** (p. 25) MIDTOWN This used to be known as the Ritz-Carlton New York, one of the grand dowagers of Central Park South. The location and views are as splendid as ever, and the Fantino Bar and Grill is still there.... *Tel 800/327-0200, 212/757-1900. Fax 212/757-9620. www.ichotelsgroup.com. 112 Central Park South, 10019. N/R/W trains to 5th Ave./59th St. 209 units. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. $$$$*

**See Map 4 on p. 32, bullet 11.**

**Chelsea Hotel** (p. 21, 22) CHELSEA The service here is friendly if lackadaisical, but a hotel with a history of violence, drug use,

and a thousand scary New York stories is not for everyone, even if it has been renovated and the rooms are good-size. The attached El Quixote restaurant serves okay Spanish cuisine.... *Tel 212/243-3700. Fax 212/675-5531. www.hotelchelsea.com. 222 W. 23rd St., 10011. 1/2 or C/E trains to 23rd St. 200 units. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. $$*

**See Map 4 on p. 32, bullet 40.**

**Chelsea Pines Inn** **(p. 22)** CHELSEA/WEST VILLAGE A bed-and-breakfast catering exclusively to a gay clientele, located between the West Village and Chelsea. The 14th St. location is being gradually prettified, with trees and flowers. Breakfasts in the garden feature home-baked bread and Krispy Kreme doughnuts.... *Tel 212/929-1023. Fax 212/620-5646. www.chelseapinesinn.org. 317 W. 14th St., 10014-5001. A/C/E trains to 14th St. 24 units. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. $*

**See Map 3 on p. 31, bullet 1.**

**Days Hotel Midtown** **(p. 30)** MIDTOWN WEST What you'd expect from a motel chain, plus it's been renovated recently.... *Tel 800/572-6232, 212/581-7000. Fax 212/974-0291. www.bestnyhotels.com. 790 8th Ave. at W. 48th St., 10019. C train to 50th St. 367 units. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. $$*

**See Map 4 on p. 32, bullet 24.**

**Empire Hotel** **(p. 19)** UPPER WEST SIDE The halls are narrow, but who cares when Lincoln Center is just across the way. Chintz is everywhere, the bathrooms compact but sweet. Service is very professional, polite, and alert but understated, not at all stuffy. A good hotel for the price.... *Tel 888/822-3555, 212/265-7400. Fax 212/315-0349. www.empirehotel.com. 44 W. 63rd St., 10023. 1/9 trains to 66th St./Lincoln Center. 376 units. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. $$$*

**See Map 5 on p. 34, bullet 54.**

**Excelsior Hotel** **(p. 20, 28)** UPPER WEST SIDE Spacious rooms and suites have been renovated just enough to be respectable, without removing the Art Deco tile in the bathrooms. Choose front rooms for a spectacular view of the American Museum of Natural History.... *Tel 800/368-4575, 212/362-9200. Fax 212/721-2994. www.1excelsior.com. 45 W. 81st St., 10024. B/C trains to 81st St./American Museum of Natural History. 196 units. AE, DISC, MC, V. $$*

**See Map 5 on p. 34, bullet 47.**

**Fitzpatrick Manhattan Hotel** **(p. 26)** MIDTOWN EAST As Irish as its name. The rooms are large, with wet bars, trouser presses, and terry-cloth robes. No fitness center, but free guest privileges at the nearby Excelsior Health Club are available.... *Tel 800/367-7701, 212/355-0100. Fax 212/355-1371. www.fitzpatrickhotels.com. 687 Lexington Ave., 10022. 4/5/6 trains to 59th St. 92 units. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. $$$*

**See Map 4 on p. 32, bullet 15.**

**Four Seasons** **(p. 26, 27)** MIDTOWN EAST The huge guest rooms have elegant contemporary decor with Art Deco touches. The subdued Fifty Seven Fifty Seven Restaurant and Bar and the Armani-studded Lobby Lounge offer sustenance, a business center provides secretarial services, and, for the body, there's a fitness center and spa.... *Tel 800/332-3442, 212/758-5700. Fax 212/758-5711. www.fourseasons.com/newyorkfs/index.html. 57 E. 57th St., 10022. N/R/W or 4/5/6 trains to 60th St. 370 units. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. $$$$$*

**See Map 4 on p. 32, bullet 14.**

**Franklin** **(p. 22)** UPPER EAST SIDE This very neat boutique hotel's pleasant rooms have wispy white canopies over the beds, fresh flowers, VCRs, cedar closets, and European-style showers. Breakfast is served in a tiny room off the lobby, where the coffeepot operates around the clock. Good value for the neighborhood.... *Tel 877/847-4444, 212/369-1000. Fax 212/369-8000. www.franklinhotel.com. 164 E. 87th St., 10128. 4/5/6 trains to 86th St. 47 units. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. $$*

**See Map 5 on p. 34, bullet 46.**

**Gramercy Park Hotel** **(p. 23, 29)** GRAMERCY PARK The rooms are decidedly worn-looking, with nylon bedspreads, a few chips on the furniture, and aged (but clean) bathroom fixtures. The downstairs restaurant is usually empty, and the crooner in the cocktail lounge sings off-key, but the place has a kind of run-down charm—maybe that's why the fashion set has recently moved in. Service is pleasant but slow.... *Tel 800/221-4083, 212/475-4320. Fax 212/505-0535. www.thegramercyparkhotel.com. 2 Lexington Ave., 10010. 6 train to 23rd St. 509 units. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. $$*

**See Map 4 on p. 32, bullet 41.**

**Habitat** **(p. 26, 27)** MIDTOWN EAST Location, location, location! The rooms are small, but they're clean, stylish, right in the middle of everything, and a bargain to boot. If you really want to pinch your pennies (or you fear you might max the plastic at the very upscale shops nearby), take one of the rooms with a shared bath.... *Tel 800/255-0482), 212/753-8841. Fax 917/441-0295. www.stayinny.com. 130 East 57th St., 10022. 4/5/6 trains to 59th St. or N/R/W trains to Lexington Ave. 300 units. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. $*

**See Map 4 on p. 32, bullet 20.**

**Holiday Inn Downtown** **(p. 25)** CHINATOWN Near Little Italy, SoHo, TriBeCa, and the Lower East Side, this chain hotel has standard-issue rooms and amenities. Fax machines are available in the lobby, where you can send messages while humming along to the Chinese Muzak—actually a relief from the subway noise.... *Tel 800/HOLIDAY, 212/966-8898. Fax 212/966-3933. www.holidayinn-nyc.com. 138 Lafayette St., 10013. A/C/E or N/Q/R/W trains to Canal St. 227 units. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. $$*

**See Map 3 on p. 31, bullet 9.**

**Hostelling International of New York** (p. 29) UPPER WEST SIDE The Hilton of hostels offers lodging to travelers of all ages (you have to be an AYH member, but you can join for a nominal fee when you register). Most rooms are dormitory style, but some semi-private and family rooms are available. The community-college ambience extends to the dining area, library, laundry, meeting room, chapel, espresso bar, student travel offices, and sunny garden where a fountain plays. Much cheaper than the YMCA, and lacking only a swimming pool.... *Tel 800/909-4776, 212/932-2300. Fax 212/932-2574. www.hostelworld.com. 891 Amsterdam Ave., 10025. 1/9 trains to 103rd St. 480 beds. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. $*

**See Map 5 on p. 34, bullet 43.**

**Hotel Wales** (p. 20) UPPER EAST SIDE This attractive eight-story Victorian hotel's potted ivy, wing-backed chairs, and antique issues of Country Life all look very proper. Free breakfast is served in the antique-filled Madison Room, where at teatime a harpist plays. Rear rooms can be small—ask for a front view, unless you loathe street noise.... *Tel 877/847-4444, 212/876-6000. Fax 212/860-7000. www.waleshotel.com. 1295 Madison Ave., 10128. 4/5/6 trains to 86th St. 86 units. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. $$*

**See Map 5 on p. 34, bullet 45.**

**Incentra Village House** (p. 20, 22, 25) WEST VILLAGE This guest house boasts working fireplaces and lovely antiques. Bathrooms are small and utilitarian; the galley kitchens in every room come with all utensils. Clientele is largely gay and lesbian, but all are welcomed.... *Tel 212/206-0007. Fax 212/604-0625. www.ilove inns.com. 32 8th Ave., 10014. A/C/E trains to 14th St. 12 units. AE, DISC, MC, V. $*

**See Map 3 on p. 31, bullet 2.**

**Inn at Irving Place** (p. 21, 22, 23) FLATIRON DISTRICT Cozy, with exquisite antiques in every room, along with cable TV, VCRs, remote climate-control, and a very pleasant personal welcome (unless you are under 12, in which case you are not welcome at all). Continental breakfast is included, as well as services like in-room fax machines and Internet access. High teas in the Tea Salon have become an instant neighborhood tradition.... *Tel 800/685-1447, 212/533-4600. Fax 212/533-4611. www.innat irving.com. 56 Irving Place, 10003. L/N/Q/R/W/4/5/6 trains to Union Square. 12 units. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. $$$$*

**See Map 4 on p. 32, bullet 42.**

**Jolly Madison Towers Hotel** (p. 27) MIDTOWN WEST Popular with Italian vacationers and corporate types, the Jolly, near Grand Central Station, offers standard amenities for a very fair price. The lobby is hotel modern, the furniture neocolonial, and the bathrooms awfully small, but you get a minibar, air conditioner, and

Italian stations on the cable TV. Health spa, bar, and coffee shop on premises.... *Tel 800/221-2626, 212/802-0600. Fax 212/447-0747. www.jollymadison.com. 22 E. 38th St., 10016. 4/5/6/7 trains to Grand Central. 216 units. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. $$*

**See Map 4 on p. 32, bullet 36.**

**Larchmont Hotel (p. 20, 26)** GREENWICH VILLAGE Hidden on one of the most beautiful blocks in Greenwich Village, this small hotel has a European feeling, from the wire chairs in the breakfast room to the old floral and animal prints on the walls. The rooms are good–size and comfortably furnished, with TVs, voice mail, and complimentary robes and slippers. Rooms have washbasins, but showers and toilets are down the hall. Some floors also have kitchen facilities for guests.... *Tel 212/989-9333. Fax 212/989-9496. www.larchmonthotel.com. 27 W. 11th St., 10011. F train to 14th St., E train to West 4th Street, or L train to 6th Ave. 55 units. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. $*

**See Map 3 on p. 31, bullet 3.**

**Lowell Hotel (p. 22, 25, 27, 28)** UPPER WEST SIDE A small and unassuming lobby little prepares one for the wonders above, totally luxurious without ever being stuffy. Rooms have minibars with fridge, a writing desk, multiline phones with computer and fax hookup, home entertainment centers, even a complimentary umbrella; but if at all possible, choose one of the suites with a fireplace and a garden terrace. The antique-studded Pembroke Room serves breakfast and afternoon tea.... *Tel 800/221-4444, 212/838–1400. Fax 212/319-4230. www.lowellhotel.com. 28 E. 63rd St., 10021. E/V trains to Lexington—3rd Ave. or 6 train to 51st St. 65 units. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. $$$$$*

**See Map 5 on p. 34, bullet 55.**

**Malibu Studios Hotel (p. 20)** UPPER WEST SIDE In the small mirrored lobby, one flight up from the sidewalk, you'll usually find a few backpack-laden Europeans getting info from the patient, 24-hours-a-day desk clerks. The small, spartan rooms are freshly decorated and spotlessly clean but for now lack phones. Some come with TV and bath; others make do with a sink in the room and a shared bathroom down the hall.... *Tel 800/647-2227, 212/663-0275. Fax 212/678-6842. 2688 Broadway, 10025. 1/9 trains to 103rd St. 150 units. No credit cards. $*

**See Map 5 on p. 34, bullet 44.**

**The Mansfield Hotel (p. 20)** MIDTOWN Substantially lower-priced than the neighboring Royalton and the Algonquin, the Mansfield is the smart theater-goer's place to stay. The rooms are pleasant enough, with remote TV, VCRs, and hair dryers. Continental breakfast is free.... *Tel 877/847-4444, 212/944–6050. Fax 212/764-4477. www.mansfieldhotel.com. 12 W. 44th St., 10036. B/D/F/V trains to 42nd St. 129 units. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. $$$*

**See Map 4 on p. 32, bullet 34.**

**The Mark Hotel** (p. 22, 25) UPPER EAST SIDE Relax in the "neo-classical, English-Italian" lobby and watch Hollywood types make deals. Upstairs, rooms are sharp and elegant, with the usual luxury amenities, including marble bathrooms with large tubs and separate shower stalls. Some larger suites have libraries, terraces, and so on. Stop by the intimate Mark's Bar for a cocktail or dine at the handsome (and expensive) 2-tiered restaurant.... *Tel 800/THEMARK, 212/744-4300. Fax 212/472-5714. www.markhotel.com. Madison Ave. at E. 77th St., 10021. 6 train to 77th St. 180 units. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. $$$$$*

**See Map 5 on p. 34, bullet 49.**

**The Mayflower Hotel** (p. 25, 26, 29) UPPER WEST SIDE The Mayflower remains a dependable hotel with a fair price, right on Central Park. Standard rooms have 2 closets and a corner with a refrigerator and sink; there's a small fitness room upstairs. The decor may be early maiden-aunt, but the low-key atmosphere can be a lifesaver.... *Tel 800/223-4164, 212/265-0060. Fax 212/265-2026. www.mayflowerhotel.com. 15 Central Park West, 10023. 1/9 or A/B/C/D trains to Columbus Circle. 365 units. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. $$*

**See Map 5 on p. 34, bullet 56.**

**The Melrose Hotel** (p. 23, 27) UPPER EAST SIDE A $40-million restoration has contributed a pleasant-enough tan-and-pink decor, white tile bathrooms, and pedestal sinks. There's also a fitness center, bar, and pool.... *Tel 800/223-1020, 212/838-5700. Fax 212/223-3287. www.melrosehotel.com. 140 E. 63rd St., 10021. F train to 63rd St. 301 units. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. $$$*

**See Map 5 on p. 34, bullet 53.**

**Mercer** (p. 19, 20) SOHO This oh-so-hip boutique hotel offers coolly elegant loft-style rooms with multiline phones, fax and modem ports, oversized tubs, and complimentary passes to the nearby Crunch gym. The courtyard rooms cost a bit more but are much quieter. The laid-back restaurant next to the book-lined lobby is overseen by superstar chef Jean-Georges Vongerichten.... *Tel 212/966-6060. Fax 212/965-3838. www.mercerhotel.com. 147 Mercer St., 10012. N/R trains to Prince St., or 6 train to Spring St. 75 units. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. $$$$*

**See Map 3 on p. 31, bullet 5.**

**Michelangelo** (p. 22, 24, 26) MIDTOWN WEST Acres of Italian marble downstairs, and upstairs all the upper-crust amenities you'd expect—very large rooms with king-size beds, stunning Times Square views, marble bathrooms. A small fitness room, lobby bar, and business facilities are on the premises.... *Tel 800/237-0990, 212/765-1900. Fax 212/581-7618. www.michelangelo hotel.com. 152 W. 51st St., 10019. N/R/W trains to 49th St. 178 units. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. $$$$*

**See Map 4 on p. 32, bullet 21.**

**Milford Plaza** (p. 24, 30) MIDTOWN WEST With so much commotion on the enormous first floor, with its gift shops, hairdresser, ATM, fax, and copy service, you may wonder why people stay here. (It isn't for the motel-like rooms.) The answer: cheap package deals of Broadway tickets plus a room.... *Tel 800/221-2690, 212/869-3600. Fax 212/944-8357. www.milfordplaza.com. 270 W. 45th St., 10036. A/C/E trains to 42nd St. 1,300 units. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. $*

**See Map 4 on p. 34, bullet 30.**

**Millennium Broadway** (p. 23, 28) MIDTOWN WEST Huge Art Deco frescoes adorn the lobby, while etched mirrors and chrome light the adjoining Restaurant Charlotte, a pleasant place to dine after a play. Sleek, modern rooms feature dual-line phones, TVs, and all the futuristic gadgets you might expect. Then there's that dynamite skyscraper-view of New York.... *Tel 800/622-5569, 212/768-4400. Fax 212/768-0847. www.millennium-hotels.com. 145 W. 44th St., 10036. N/Q/R/S/W/1/2/3/7/9 trains to Times Square. 627 units. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. $$$*

**See Map 4 on p. 34, bullet 31.**

**Millennium U.N. Plaza** (p. 26, 27) MIDTOWN EAST This sleek high-rise right near the U.N. gives movers and shakers a raft of furnishings so modern you hardly see them. The rooftop swimming pool, tennis courts, the banquettes in the lobby with custom telephones, and the super-alert desk clerks assure you that you're in the hands of experts.... *Tel 800/222-8888, 212/758-1234. Fax 212/702-5051. www.millennium-hotels.com. 1 United Nations Plaza, 10017–3575. 4/5/6/7 trains to Grand Central. 427 units. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. $$$*

**See Map 4 on p. 34, bullet 35.**

**Morgans Hotel** (p. 22, 23) MIDTOWN EAST If you are tall, thin, overpaid, and wear only black, you'll fit in at this ultra-discreet little hotel. Rooms lack views but offer down comforters, fresh flowers, and some very high-tech communications capabilities. Room service 24 hours a day; continental breakfast is free. There's a trendy bar and cafe downstairs.... *Tel 800/334-3408, 212/686-0300. Fax 212/779-8352. www.morganshotel.com. 237 Madison Ave., 10016. 4/5/6/7 train to Grand Central. 154 units. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. $$$*

**See Map 4 on p. 34, bullet 37.**

**New York Palace** (p. 25) MIDTOWN EAST Reproduction furniture and unexceptional (though luxurious) amenities hit one like a hangover after the glamour of the downstairs, which features one of New York's best restaurants, Le Cirque 2000. Non-smoking floors are offered, as well as 24-hour room service and same-day laundry and valet. A business center, fitness center, and free limousine rides to Wall Street may mollify business travelers. You can dine alfresco in the Istana restaurant, in the

shadows of St. Patrick's Cathedral.... *Tel 800/NYPALACE, 212/888-7000. Fax 212/303-6000. www.newyorkpalace.com. 455 Madison Ave., 10022. 6 train to 51st St. or E/V trains to Lexington—3rd Ave. 900 units. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. $$$$$*

**See Map 4 on p. 32, bullet 22.**

**Off Soho Suites** **(p. 20, 28)** LOWER EAST SIDE This place is clean, reasonably priced, and near downtown plays, poetry readings, music, and galleries. The apartment-like suites have phones, color TV, air-conditioning, and marble baths. The well-equipped eat-in kitchens are cheery in a Crate-and-Barrel way.... *Tel 800/OFFSOHO, 212/979-9808. Fax 212/979-9801. www.offsoho.com. 11 Rivington St., 10002. F train to 2nd Ave or 6 train to Spring St. 37 suites. AE, DISC, MC, V. $$*

**See Map 3 on p. 31, bullet 7.**

**Paramount Hotel** **(p. 19)** MIDTOWN WEST A happening place for the young—check out the very modern lobby or the Whiskey Bar, with its bright, cartoon-like furniture. Rooms are extremely cramped but very stylish. No views, lots of street noise, and a staff that believes looking good should be enough.... *Tel 800/225-7474, 212/764-5500. Fax 212/354-5237. www.paramount-hotel.net411.com/. 235 W. 46th St., 10036. 1/9 trains to 50th St. 600 units. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. $$*

**See Map 4 on p. 32, bullet 27.**

**The Peninsula Hotel** **(p. 27)** MIDTOWN EAST After a $45-million renovation, the bathrooms are to die for—giant marble tubs with plenty of thick, white towels—and the soothing, carpeted bedrooms in a palette of ivory, cream, and beige match any other Manhattan hotel for luxury. And don't forget the 35,000-square-foot health spa, afternoon tea at the Gotham Lounge, meals at Bistro or Adrienne, and drinks way up in the Pen-Top Bar and Terrace.... *Tel 800/262-9467, 212/956-2888. Fax 212/903-3949. www.peninsula.com. 700 5th Ave., 10019. E/V trains to 5th Ave. 242 units. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. $$$$$*

**See Map 4 on p. 32, bullet 17.**

**Pierre Hotel** **(p. 24, 27)** UPPER EAST SIDE With an ambience more sophisticated than the Plaza's, yet livelier than the Plaza Athénée's, this is a place to come home to, assuming you have a few million in your pocket. If so, put dibs on a room with a Central Park view and make reservations at the sumptuous Cafe Pierre.... *Tel 800/332-3442, 212/838-8000. Fax 212/940-8109. www.fourseasons.com. 2 E. 61st St., 10021. N/W/R trains to 5th Ave. 202 units. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. $$$$$*

**See Map 5 on p. 34, bullet 57.**

**Plaza** **(p. 23, 24, 25, 27, 30)** MIDTOWN EAST The ceilings here are high, the beds are firm, and the flowered duvets are actually pretty. Bathrooms have big, thick towels. Service is very casual,

though—quick enough, but not particularly deferential.... *Tel 212/759-3000 (U.S. toll-free 800/527-4727). Fax 212/759-3167. www.plazahotel.com. 768 5th Ave. at Central Park South, 10019. N/R/W trains to 5th Ave. 807 units. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. $$$–$$$$$*

**See Map 4 on p. 32, bullet 13.**

**Plaza-Athénée (p. 24)** UPPER EAST SIDE Rooms are very sophisticated and very French, with soft carpets and delicate antiques, marble baths with Frette robes, Belgian sheets, VCRs, and everything else top-level; the penthouses really let loose, with velvet upholstery, oil paintings, and terraces and glass solariums. Even the hotel's small fitness room has paintings on the walls, and La Régence restaurant, a Louis XV gem, resides downstairs.... *Tel 800/447-8800, 212/734-9100. Fax 212/772-0958. www.plaza-athenee.com. 37 E. 64th St., 10021. E/V trains to Lexington Ave. 152 units. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. $$$*

**See Map 5 on p. 34, bullet 51.**

**Regency (p. 24)** UPPER EAST SIDE The dining room here has long been the top spot for power breakfasts, but the spacious rooms were getting a bit long in the tooth until a recent makeover. Now the leather armchairs, massive wooden desks, silk and velvet pillows, and goose-down duvets provide both comfort and elegance. Downstairs, the Library Lounge is perfect for a quiet conversation.... *Tel 800/233-2356, 212/759-4100. Fax 212/826-5674. www.loewshotels.com 540 Park Ave., 10021. 4/5/6 trains to 59th St. E/V trains to Lexington Ave. 351 units. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. $$$$–$$$$$*

**See Map 5 on p. 34, bullet 58.**

**RIHGA Royal Hotel (p. 28)** MIDTOWN A grand, mosaic-tiled and carpeted lobby, the sharp-looking Halcyon Lounge and Halcyon Restaurant, and comfortable beige suites with state-of-the-art business amenities make this a perfect place to meet your clients. Fabulous views of Central Park and the Hudson River, a business center, small fitness center with personal trainer, and—you guessed it—complimentary shoe shine.... *Tel 800/937-5454, 212/307-5000. Fax 212/765-6530. www.rihgaroyalny.com. 151 W. 54th St., 10019. B/D/E trains to 7th Ave. 500 suites. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. $$$$–$$$$$*

**See Map 4 on p. 32, bullet 19.**

**Roger Smith (p. 20)** MIDTOWN EAST Bright, amusing, and sophisticated, this hotel is a place people come back to. Ignore the colonial-style upstairs bedrooms and spend your time with the other guests in Lily's Restaurant and Bar. Even the clerks here have character, and breakfast is free.... *Tel 800/445-0277, 212/755-1400. Fax 212/319-9130. www.rogersmith.com. 501 Lexington Ave., 10017. 4/5/6/7 trains to Grand Central. 133 units. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. $$$*

**See Map 4 on p. 32, bullet 29.**

**Royalton** (p. 20, 22, 23, 29) MIDTOWN The Algonquin of the 21st century, featuring the 44 Bar and Restaurant where you can study the lifestyles of the rich and famous. Upstairs, the post-modern style is almost scary at times, but fun, with designer Philipe Starck's stark velvet armchairs complementing cherry headboards, thick teal carpets and, in some cases, granite hearths with work-ing fireplaces. There's a 24-hour fitness room, naturally.... *Tel 800/635-9013, 212/869-4400. Fax 212/869-8965. www.roayltonhotel.com. 44 W. 44th St., 10036. B/D/F/V trains to 42nd St. 205 units. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. $$$$*

**See Map 4 on p. 32, bullet 33.**

**SoHo Grand** (p. 20, 27) SOHO Since it opened in mid-1996, the SoHo Grand has been full practically every night, and for good reason. It is the biggest hotel in the hippest part of town; its Canal House restaurant got an extraordinary 4 stars from the picky *New York Times.* The rooms are tiny, but the views are fabulous, the sheets are Frette, and the toiletries are from Kiehl's (see "Shopping").... *Tel 800/965-3000, 212/965-3000. Fax 212/965-3200. www.sohogrand.com. 310 W. Broadway, 10013. A/C/E trains to Canal St. 369 units. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. $$$$*

**See Map 3 on p. 31, bullet 6.**

**The Stanhope Park Hyatt** (p. 24, 25) UPPER EAST SIDE Museum Mile gives the Stanhope an artistic flair, and the mood here is almost like a country estate—one where anything might happen. Newly renovated rooms feature Louis XV–style antiques with Asian accents. The perfect place for a mogul who wants out of Midtown.... *Tel 800/233-1234, 212/288-5800. Fax 212/517-0088. http://stanhope.hyatt.com. 995 5th Ave., 10028. 6 train to 77th St. 169 units. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. $$$$$*

**See Map 5 on p. 34, bullet 48.**

**Super 8 Hotel Times Square** (p. 26, 30) MIDTOWN The lobby is long, narrow, and often crowded with chattering Brazilian tourists. Murals depicting views of New York lighten up the place. Otherwise, this is your typical budget-priced hotel, handily near the jewelry district, Rockefeller Center, Midtown shopping, and Broadway.... *Tel 800/567-7720, 212/719-2300. Fax 212/768-3477. www.super8.com. 59 W. 46th St., 10036. B/D/F/V trains to 47th–50th St./Rockefeller Center. 200 units. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. $$*

**See Map 4 on p. 32, bullet 28.**

**Surrey Hotel** (p. 28, 29) UPPER EAST SIDE Half a block from the Whitney Museum, with large, comfortable, recently redecorated suites, this place has a lot to recommend it—including full kitchens with surprisingly attractive dining areas. Fitness center, secretarial services, and room service (from Café Boulud, one of the city's best, downstairs) available.... *Tel 800/MESUITE, 212/288-3700. Fax 212/628-1549. www.affinia.com. 20 E. 76th St., 10021. 6 train to 77th St. 131 units. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. $$$*

**See Map 5 on p. 34, bullet 50.**

**The Swissôtel New York—The Drake (p. 26, 28)** MIDTOWN WEST Swiss-owned, it's efficient and impersonal. Every room has a color TV and refrigerator, plus a hair dryer in the beige marble bathrooms. Some offer fax service and voice mail, and there's a business center.... *Tel 212/421-0900. Fax 212/371-4190. www.swissotel-newyork.com. 440 Park Ave., 10022. E/V train to Lexington Ave.–53rd St. 495 units. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. $$$*

**See Map 4 on p. 32, bullet 16.**

**TriBeCa Grand (p. 19)** TRIBECA This is the slightly younger, slightly hipper sister to the SoHo Grand. The Good: The rooms manage to be stylishly minimalist without sacrificing luxury or comfort. Not easy to do. As a bonus, there's an in-room film library that would make any cinemaphile drool. The Bad: It can be noisy, and the beautiful-people staff, despite its prettiest intentions, serves little more than the décor. The Scary: The lead singer of Creed has been known to stay here.... *Tel 877/519-6600 or 212/519-6600. Fax 212/519-6700. www.tribecagrand.com. 2 Sixth Ave. (at White and Church sts.) 1/9 trains to Franklin St. or A/C/E trains to Canal St 203 units. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. $$$$*

**See Map 3 on p. 31, bullet 8.**

**Urban Ventures, Inc. (p. 20, 29)** CITYWIDE Mary McAulay and Frances Tesser started this bed-and-breakfast concern in 1979 with only four rooms to offer. They now command 900, nearly all in Manhattan. You'll have a choice of rooms with breakfast or empty apartments without—quality varies wildly, but the two owners have checked out each home and interviewed the hosts. "Comfort Range" rooms (most with private bath) run $125–$150, "Budget Range" (most with shared bath) at $80–$110, and entire apartments begin at $105/night.... *Tel 212/594-5650. www.gamutrealty.com. Box 426, 10024. AE, DISC, MC, V. $–$$*

**Vanderbilt YMCA (p. 28, 29)** MIDTOWN EAST The rooms are YMCA quality, but you still get a lot for your buck: the use of the recently renovated fitness club, 2 pools, and a sauna, plus an excellent and safe East Side location. The suites have private bathrooms.... *Tel 212/756-9600. Fax 212/752-0210. www.ymcanyc.org. 224 E. 47th St., 10017. 4/5/6/7 train to Grand Central. 400 units. DISC, MC, V. $*

**See Map 4 on p. 32, bullet 26.**

**Waldorf-Astoria (p. 24, 28)** MIDTOWN EAST Owned by the Hilton chain, the lobby areas bring back New York's best old days. Upstairs, furniture is Hilton-reproduction colonial, but the peach carpets are thick and the baths are marble. Some suites have fireplaces. There's a fitness center, a business center, 4 restaurants, and 4 lounges.... *Tel 800/WALDORF, 212/355-3000. Fax 212/872-7272. www.waldorf.com. 301 Park Ave., 10022. 6 train to 51st St. 1,215 units. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. $$$$*

**See Map 4 on p. 32, bullet 23.**

**Washington Square Hotel** **(p. 23, 26)** GREENWICH VILLAGE The Spanish-style lobby is nice enough, with its wrought-iron gate and tile floors, but the rooms are deadly dreary. Front rooms have an oblique view of Washington Square Park, but they're noisy. Continental breakfast included. Cheap, but worth no more than what you're paying. Still, what a location.... *Tel 800/222-0418), 212/777-9515. Fax 212/979-8373. www.washingtonsquarehotel.com. 103 Waverly Place, 10011–9194. A/C/E/F/V/S trains to W. 4th St. 170 units. AE, DISC, MC, V. $–$$*

**See Map 3 on p. 31, bullet 4.**

**West Side YMCA** **(p. 28, 29)** UPPER WEST SIDE Steps from Lincoln Center and Central Park, the bustling lobby rings with several languages, and there are plenty of opportunities to converse—in the gym, at the pool, the espresso bar, or in the new restaurant (with room service!). Rooms are very basic. They come as singles or doubles, with or without private bath. Showers are down the hall.... *Tel 212/787-4400. Fax 212/875-4260. www.ymcanyc.org. 5 W. 63rd St., 10023. 1/9 trains to 66th St./Lincoln Center. 530 units. AE, DISC, MC, V. $*

**See Map 5 on p. 34, bullet 52.**

**Wyndham** **(p. 29)** MIDTOWN Personal attention from the staff gives this modest place an edge. Smaller than the roughly equivalent Mayflower, the Wyndham has large, apartment-like rooms and suites (some guests are long-term residents), most with modern decor.... *Tel 800/257-1111, 212/753-3500. Fax 212/754-5638. www.hotelwyndham.com. 42 W. 58th St., F train to 57th St. or E/V trains to 5th Ave. 200 units. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. $$*

**See Map 4 on p. 32, bullet 12.**

DIN

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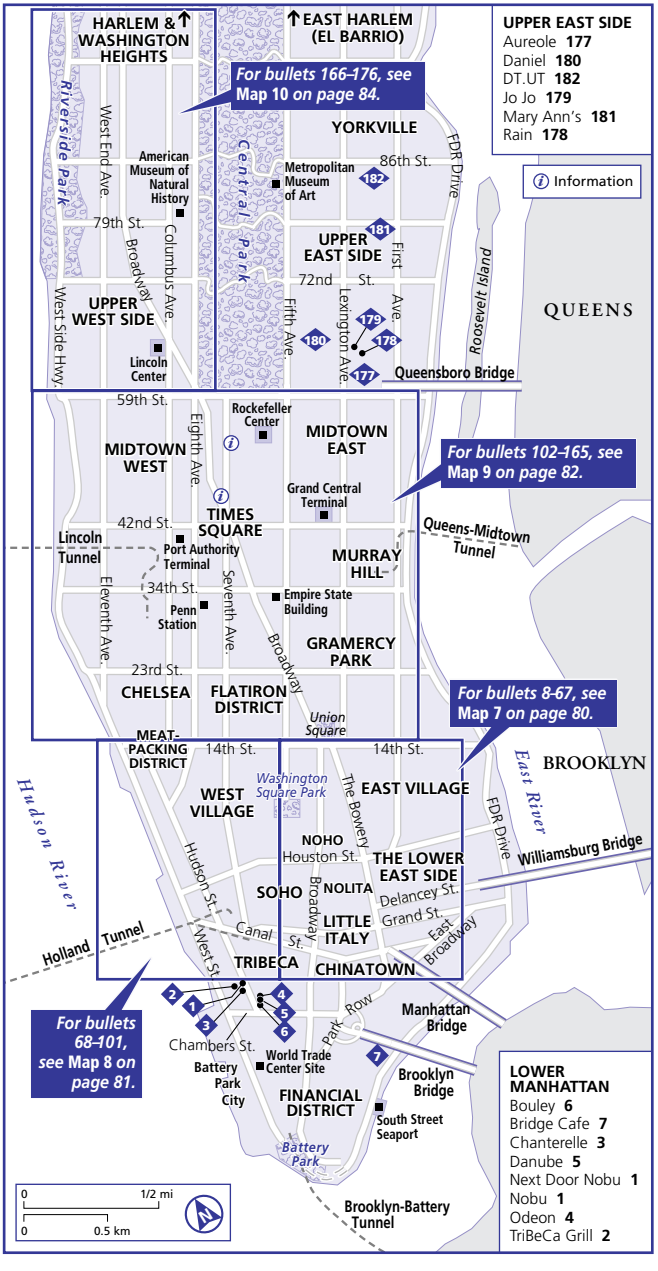
2

# Map 6: Manhattan Dining—Orientation



# Basic Stuff

Manhattan invented the concept of dining out as performance art. It isn't just the extravagant decor of many top restaurants (interior design as artwork) or exquisite presentation of the dishes (pastry chefs vie to produce extravagant structures worthy of *Architectural Digest*). It's the hushed buzz as yet another celebrity walks in. It's the high-powered deals shouted at top volume. It's the sheer exuberance of people-watching, wondering if that's something from an escort service or an adulterous liaison playing out.

Manhattan strives to do it better than anywhere else—be it blini, sushi, California health-nut food, skyscraping appetizers and desserts, or the thinnest tuna carpaccio. You can get anything from reindeer in lingonberry sauce to Lake Michigan perch with fiddlehead ferns. You can pay up at such gastronomic shrines as Jean Georges, Daniel, and Nobu, or nibble your way through the city's countless ethnic neighborhoods. Although big portions are not as much of a New York staple as they used to be, diners and other purveyors of hearty fare still serve dishes large enough to embarrass.

Manhattan is heaven for grazers, too. The coffee and bagel carts stationed at corners during the morning rush hour get replaced around noon with stands selling those quintessential New York comfort foods: pretzels and hot dogs. The latter is probably best left as a New York archetype that's seen rather than tasted. Stands can be a little scary, although if there's a crowd of suits on line, you can feel pretty secure about the quality. At the ubiquitous Korean salad bars, the term "salad" is defined so broadly that it includes pasta, sushi, spring rolls, and fried chicken, all sold by the pound. Don't let New York queues intimidate you; no one on earth is more efficient than a rush-hour city cashier, and lines move fast.

At the height of the boom years, some restaurants seemed to treat their customers as an unpleasant cost of doing business. After weeks on a reservation list, you could be met with attitude or indifference. With the New York economy still reeling, however, tables are easier to come by and diners are much more appreciated. If you had the effrontery to bring in a card listing your dietary restrictions in Manhattan circa 2000, you'd have been laughed out of the establishment. Now, more than a few chefs are willing to make alterations to recipes, and Atkins-friendly menu selections are as common as entrees that cater to

Kosher or vegetarian needs (it should be noted, however, that the incessant yammering about Atkins by its converts is just as annoying today as it was in 2000).

One of New York's weaknesses is the $15–$20 entree range. Maybe it's a lack of discernment among the businessfolk that keep those places afloat, but we seem to do better with the crazy-expensive top-of-the-line and with cheap ethnic food. I defy any city on earth to beat New York for the latter. New York has more restaurants representing more regions in more nations, and often serves it up with higher quality than they make it at home. How many other cities can boast 24 Indian restaurants on one tiny block? Okay, but how many outside of Bombay?

With some 4,000 restaurants to choose from in Manhattan alone, the problem is not finding an amazing meal but finding a seat that doesn't come with a 2-hour (or 2-year) wait. One good source is Open Table (www.opentable.com), which will let you make an online reservation, or at least tell you if a place is already booked for the night.

### What Will It Cost?

A multi-course dinner at one of the city's fanciest eating establishments, including drinks, freely flowing wine, and a tip, can set you back more than $100 per person with only a little effort on your part. Lunches at places like **The Four Seasons** and the **Union Square Cafe** are somewhat less expensive, and occasionally you'll find prix-fixe options—though these seldom include specialty dishes with exotic ingredients. You can dine at the bar in the swankier joints, where lower-priced menus are sometimes available. A couple of times a year, usually for a week in early February and late June, many of Manhattan's most celebrated restaurants offer a special prix-fixe lunch at a price tied to the year—$20.03 in 2003, for example. Tables for this deal generally book at the speed of light, so it's wise to ask about it in advance, at NYC & Co. (tel 800/NYC-VISIT). But you also can find great meals for less than $20 at places with character rather than class, and intensely flavored food rather than subtle haute cuisine.

### Tipping

There's a broad range of service in New York. Chinatown specializes in brusque indifference, while in Midtown you may be served by someone you next see on a Broadway marquee.

**Service compris** is not a concept understood in New York, where restaurant salaries are woefully low and most waiters make nearly all their income from tips. When calculating a waiter's tip, many New Yorkers simply double the tax amount on their check (2 x 8.25% = 16.5%, a reasonable tip). But New York waitstaff work hard for their money, so round it up to 20% if you can, unless the service is wretched.

### Only in New York

*The hot haute places get all the press, but to truly eat like a New Yorker, go to the neighborhoods and eat ethnic. East Sixth Street between First and Second is Curry Row, and there are slices of the Ukraine throughout the Lower East Side; venturing farther afield, you can coo over couscous on Brooklyn's Atlantic Avenue or chow down on* **churrasco** *(mixed grill) in authentic South American restaurants in Jackson Heights. Chinese food is such a staple in the Manhattan diet, you'll find good candidates all over the island—but mind you, it's come a long way from tired old General Tso's chicken, incorporating the flavors of Thailand, Vietnam, Burma, and Malaysia in an au courant Asian cuisine. Hispanic storefront cafes crop up everywhere, too; the accent may be Cuban, Dominican, or Bahamian, but so long as the menu in the window features rice and beans, it's bound to be cheap, filling, and flavorful.*

### Getting the Right Table

Perhaps some high-rollers tip maitre d's to get see-and-be-seen tables. Since money talks in New York, it works, though not as well as being a regular. Being a regular, of course, is impossible for a visitor, although you can borrow a local in the form of a hotel concierge. A good one should have some pull—make your reservations through him or her if you plan to dine at any exclusive restaurants. If you know that you prefer one room in a restaurant over another (for instance, the clubby Grill Room versus the romantic Pool Room at **The Four Seasons**), ask for it specifically when you make your reservations. Barring that, once you're at the restaurant, don't be too timid to request a change if you get put in a spot you don't like and you see better tables empty. Most maitre d's will accommodate you, when at all possible.

### When to Eat and How to Dress

Manhattan Island runs on the office clock, lunching from noon to 2pm, and dining from around 7:30 to 9:30pm. Unless you just happen to strike it lucky, reservations are required at the kinds of places where they sweep the crumbs off the tablecloth with a

little brush; a good general policy is to make a reservation at any place that accepts them, and check on the dress policy when you call. Don't be surprised—or offended—to be offered a table at 6 or 10:30pm. These days, even top-of-the-line New York restaurateurs recognize the chilling effects of a room full of suits and ties, and the light sure comes to their eyes when hip-looking customers arrive. So if it's a dinner to remember you have in mind, celebrate the occasion by dressing with style.

### Where the Chefs Are

In Manhattan's revolving culinary scene, top restaurateurs often must grind their teeth at the success of former apprentices—many remain with the restaurants they open, but others start their own, still others diversify and train new generations. And most are impossibly young (and usually svelte). **David Bouley** is notoriously imperious, but his Bouley has become one of the most chic spots to break bread, and his new adventure Danube delivers great things. **Daniel Boulud,** once of Le Cirque, sets the standard for classic French cooking at Cafe Boulud, Daniel, and db bistro moderne; others holding down the bastion of haute cuisine include **Eric Ripert** at Le Bernardin, and **Eberhard Mueller,** who amazingly replaced the irreplaceable Andre Soltner at legendary Lutece. Of course, New York boasts several chefs so cutting edge, they draw blood: **Jean-Georges Vongerichten** (Vong, Jean-Georges, Jo Jo, Mercer Kitchen) and **Rocco DiSpirito** (Union Pacific) are widely admired for their dazzling Asian-French fusion food. **Nobu Matsuhisa** has reinvented Japanese cuisine at Nobu and Next Door Nobu. **Mario Batali** (Babbo, Lupa, Esca) continues to turn out the exciting Italian dishes that made him a **Food Network** poster boy. **Charles Palmer** (owner and former chef of Aureole, Alva, Metrazúr) is beloved in the food industry for both his cooking and I'm-no-star manner; his apprentices have already become New York's next wave. And speaking of the next wave, don't miss out on the work of young talents **Wylie Dufresne** (71 Clinton Fresh Foods, WD-50) and **Gabrielle Hamilton** (Prune). If your standard of fame is having your own best-selling cookbook, how about **Alfred Portale** (Gotham Bar & Grill), **Michael Romano** (Union Square Cafe), and **Bobby Flay** (Mesa Grill)? Other New York fixtures in the foodie firmament include **Wayne Nish** (March), **David Waltuck** (Chanterelle), **Tom Colicchio** (Gramercy Tavern, Craft).... Oh, the list could go on and on.

# The Lowdown



**Hot spots that won't cool down...** In TriBeCa, there's **Odeon,** encamped in a postmodern stripped-down cafeteria, which provides cassoulet, roast lamb, and sorbet to a wealthy, artsy crowd; opened in 1980, it's lasted long enough to make a comeback. Its Upper West Side sibling, **Cafe Luxembourg,** is still the Lincoln Center restaurant of choice for literati, glitterati (Al Pacino and Harrison Ford), and hangers-on who like hanger steak and soufflés. Then there's **TriBeCa Grill,** where the trendy crowd was first lured by the star power of owner Robert DeNiro and then kept on coming for the inventive cooking of chef Don Pintabona. **March,** in an East Side town house, tucks diners away in peaceful little flower-decked nooks, then woos them with chef Wayne Nish's carefully reduced sauces and intriguing pre-appetizer "treats." Try the "tasting menus"—four or seven small portions of various exquisite entrees. French-Vietnamese **Indochine** has remained a see-and-be-scene; it's a riot of palm trees, real, painted, and artificial, which also describes the moneyed, rail-thin clientele. And folks still flock to TriBeCa's **Montrachet,** which set the standard for minimalist design and maximum emphasis on flavor and presentation, with a killer wine list. Master chef David Bouley has reorganized his eponymous restaurant **Bouley.** Though the surroundings and service try to be unpretentious, the crowd is just too knowing about its gastronomy and viticulture. Specials to watch for include asparagus-roasted monkfish, honey-and-thyme glazed duck, and shrimp in phyllo with sweet corn and Thai curry paste. The wine list is lazy, however, with bloated prices. These days Bouley seems to be phoning it in at Bouley, perhaps because his attentions have turned to his latest creation, nearby **Danube.** Here, he delves into Austrian cuisine, putting a light spin on hearty dishes like braised beef cheeks in Zweigelt wine sauce. The crowd is as quietly elegant as the decor.

**Where's the beef, yo?...** **The Palm** is almost a parody of a classic steakhouse, from the celebrity caricatures to the ancient waiters (actually they're only pretending to be deaf). It's a toss-up as to which is higher, the beef quality

or the prices, but $80 nets you melt-in-your-mouth filet or lobster. **Peter Luger** serves New York's best porterhouse, though you have to cross over to Brooklyn to get it. Tons of beef shortloins pass through this unreconstructed beer hall every week, dry-aged on the premises, cooked to order, and then served au jus. After feasting on a huge slab of steak, German fried potatoes, creamed spinach, and cheesecake, you won't need to eat again for a week. **Smith & Wollensky** remains a bastion of tradition, with an old-time martini vibe and a char-grilling standard that approaches perfection. The only thing to change in the 113 years **Keen's Steakhouse** has been in business is the name (originally Keen's Chop House, in deference to the signature dish, mutton chops, which are even better than the steaks). The marvelous Old New York ambience and extensive selection of single malt scotches help make it nirvana for carnivorous types.

**Something fishy...** **Le Bernardin** is the one that started it all, that rescued fish and shellfish from the heavy sauces American chefs had been suffocating them under. Its formula—fresh seafood cooked medium-rare in a simple preparation—has become the standard. Chef Eric Ripert took over at the ripe old age of 26 and wowed everyone, and he's still going strong. His careful, elegant, exacting preparation makes every dish an eye-opener. (The steep prices, and the difficulty of getting reservations, are eye-opening as well.) Enjoy bivalves from both coasts of the U.S. under the curvy vaulted ceilings of the Art Deco **Oyster Bar and Restaurant** in Grand Central Station. Sit at the oyster bar and watch your chowder or bisque being made right before your eyes. There's an extensive fish-friendly wine list for your tippling pleasure. **Esca,** which means "bait" in Italian, is luring in the crowds for Mario Batali's fresh and feisty seafood. Have the cruda—Italian-style raw fish dressed with lemon, olive oil, and salt—or one of the whole grilled fish. **Aquagrill** is becoming a SoHo classic, with its sophisticated but relaxed atmosphere and super-fresh seafood. Perch at the bar for oysters or appetizers like grilled sardines with tapenade, or, in warmer weather, reserve a table on the patio. At dinner, the kitchen will do fish a la carte any way you like it. Want seafood

with Asian flavor? **Ping's Seafood,** in the heart of Chinatown, creates subtle, exquisite dishes like scallops in the shell with XO sauce and the best lobster with ginger sauce you've ever tasted. The famous New York gourmet grocer Citarella takes it to the tables with its eponymous restaurant, **Citarella.** With its constant supply of the freshest fish—and the talents of chef de cuisine at Le Bernardin—it's a no-brainer. There's everything from sushi to whole grilled fish—try one of the tasting menus if you can't decide. **Oceana**'s Art Deco cruise ship decor could be patterned after the QE2, but the mouth-watering, knee-buckling seafood is what makes you woozy with delight. Swim straight for chef Rick Moonen's mussels, fragrant with ginger, garlic, cilantro, and Thai basil, or poached sea scallops with the smoky edge of black truffles. **Union Pacific** occupies a smashing space near Union Square, with a soothing water curtain splashing peacefully into a pool. Chef Rocco di Spirito's seafood is a dazzling juxtaposition of tastes and textures, artfully presented: pale white cod counterpointed by jungle green peppers and kimchi, or a single bay scallop swimming in a sea of bright orange sea-urchin roe.

### Bangs for Your Buck

*You can dine at any of the following spots for less than $20, easy. What's more, the food is pretty darned good and the atmosphere cheerful.* ***Fanelli's Cafe*** *predates most of the other restaurants in SoHo, and never could be called trendy—still, this old-New York tavern packs in the crowds for simple dinners and Sunday brunch. Then there's the* ***Cornelia Street Cafe,*** *which serves very reasonably priced, tasty meals in unpretentiously stylish surroundings, with live jazz or poetry readings often thrown in as well. This cafe has been part of the Village scene for ages, and there are always companionable fellow travelers at the bar. The too-hip-for-words* ***Republic*** *makes communism seem like a good thing, with chummy family-style seating and impossibly low prices mated to high Southeast Asian culinary standards. The always chic, always bustling* ***Florent*** *offers the likes of lentil salad with feta and roasted red peppers or mussels in white wine and garlic—all at coffee shop prices, along with a well-considered list of French country wines.*

**Vegging out...** SoHo eats healthy at the **Spring Street Natural,** but the noise level there can be annoying. The menu has a range of organic temptations, though food quality has been inconsistent of late. Real health-food freaks light up at the chance to sup at the elegantly subdued **Zen Palate,** with branches in the Theater District and alongside Union Square. The food is Asian and gorgeous (they do wondrous things with tofu), but the no-drinks policy means no accompanying goblet of wine. On the Upper West Side and in Murray Hill, **Josie's** does a booming business with its fresh organic fare and incredible juice bar. **Angelica Kitchen** is another out-of-body experience for those who go organic vegetarian. The macrobiotic menu may be Manhattan's finest and certainly most varied, with terrific tempeh and overflowing salads. If you come for brunch, however, get coffee first because Angelica's version won't satisfy anything more than idle curiosity. **Herban Kitchen** does organic vegetarian with elegance, with winning dishes like whole-wheat phyllo triangles with leek ricotta and a vegetarian antipasto filled with vegetable pâtés and organic cheeses. And veg-heads won't have any trouble luring meat-eaters into joining them—the grass-fed steaks and "un-fried" chicken are lovely. **Tiengarden** on the Lower East Side is a tiny storefront with a tranquil energy. The Chinese-inspired all-vegan menu is prepared without onion or garlic, but somehow manages to be packed with flavor.

**Young Americans...** The past few years have seen the opening of small, charming, neighborhood-y spots run by hot young chefs serving New American dishes that are just as impressive as the big boys', but much more affordable. Clinton Street on the Lower East Side has been a major beneficiary of this trend. Once a sketchy place after dark, this little strip south of the East Village has become a foodie mecca. **71 Clinton Fresh Foods** is the most hyped of these spots, deservedly. Jean-Georges alumni Wylie Dufresne embraces experimentation, serving up shrimp-stuffed squid, edamame-crusted sea bass, and parsley root and jonah crab soup. His flavors are pure, his combinations creative without being difficult. Wylie's dad, Dewey, chooses the wine and charms the customers. Not content with one smashing success, Chef Dufresne has installed

### Morning Grub

*If you're yearning for an infusion of mimosas and eggs Benedict, there are countless places in SoHo and along Columbus Avenue that will be happy to oblige. But what if you want a real breakfast to set you up for your day's encounters? One of our favorites is the* ***9th Street Market*** *in the East Village. Chances are you'll have to wait for a table with the stylishly mussed locals, but your reward will be delicious homestyle-American fare, strong coffee, and one of the most consistently pleasant servers in the city. If you're in the mood for something a little more last-year chic, the coddled eggs, brioche, and cafe au lait at SoHo's once-so-trendy* ***Balthazar*** *probably taste even better now that you don't have to make a reservation three months in advance to eat them. Those of you with more down-home tastes (and a permission slip from your cardiologist) can stoke the furnace with eggs, link sausages, country ham, and grits swimming in golden butter at the* ***Pink Teacup*** *in the West Village. If you're jonesing for something sweet, I have deux words for you:* ***Petite Abeille.*** *With four Downtown locations, this quaint Belgian bistro serves waffles so good, it's said they make Jean Claude van Damme weep like a homesick little boy (okay, not really, but they're seriously good waffles). Those with a more savory palette will be equally impressed with the menu's assortment of omelettes, all of which are served with stoemp (mashed sweet potatoes) and fresh salad.*

nascent institution **WD-50** just down the block. The food presentation wouldn't be out of place in the vest-pocket galleries starting to come to the neighboring streets. Original dishes like foie gras with cocoa nibs and sardines take big risks but somehow manage to work. The warm and quirky **Prune** was named not for the dried fruit, but for chef Gabrielle Hamilton (it was her childhood nickname). It looks like a French bistro channeled through an American thrift store, with mismatched tables and a short bar (where you can get bar snacks like radishes with butter and salt), and serves up cozy, hearty fare like a juicy rack of lamb or marrow bones with parsley salad. The West Village is home to more little big guys: At **Blue Hill,** chef Dan Barber builds the menu around simple preparations of seasonal produce from the Hudson Valley, like meltingly good poached duck with a baby carrot stew and chanterelles. He also impresses with luscious desserts like the fan-favorite chocolate bread pudding. The basement room is subtly decorated, with exposed brick and long banquettes. **Annisa**'s decor is even more restrained, done up in shades of white with a backlit wall of sheer curtains as the major

statement. International flourishes enhance the American cuisine, with chef Anita Lo commanding influences from Asia (lobster with spring rolls) and the Middle East (falafel-stuffed zucchini blossoms). Bill Telepan's refined comfort food appeals to the businesspeople and rich preppies who fill the dramatic dining room at the **JUdson Grill,** with its oversized flower arrangements and vaulted ceilings. The menu at the safely stylish **Union Square Cafe** has been turned into a cookbook—which is only appropriate since this place is a favorite publishing-industry lunch spot. Try the tuna carpaccio in the sunken dining room, followed up with a plate of delectable cookies, or just grab a seat at the bar.

**Americans feeling their hautes...** Fancy-schmancy cooking is no longer the sole province of the French and the rest of that Old World crowd. The good old U.S. of A. has figured out how to convert the fruits of the land into incredibly sophisticated cuisine. **Aureole,** in a pretty town house on the East Side with a massive two-story front window, has perfected the art of New American food The six-course tasting menu runs the gamut from lamb chop to squab, and the superb service makes this one of New York's most civilized dining experiences (at these prices, it had better be). The **Mercer Kitchen** in SoHo achieves its elegance with much more restraint than Aureole. Superstar chef Jean-George Vongerichten has created an unfussy menu that emphasizes pure, locally produced ingredients. Don't miss the warm pheasant salad with pomegranate and prosciutto. At the **Gramercy Tavern** in the Gramercy Park area (just above the East Village), chef Tom Colicchio has somehow managed to create an atmosphere that's simultaneously rustic and sophisticated. Maybe it's because he's such an expert at unlikely pairings: his roast sirloin of beef comes with braised beef cheeks, and that's sea urchin in the crabmeat fondue. In addition to the main dining room, the less formal **Tavern Room at Gramercy Tavern** is priced more affordably. There's a swinging scene along the bar, but the food is too amazing for you to be distracted. Tom Colicchio's follow-up is one of the hottest spots in New York. From the first glance at the menu, you can tell **Craft** is an innovator. The choices are broken down into categories (fish, meat, or mushrooms), and then subdivided by

cooking method (raw, roasted, or braised). The a la carte style allows diners to come up with their own creative juxtapositions. The cooking is very simple, but top-drawer ingredients from local growers ensure that the flavors are never dull. At lower Fifth Avenue's **Gotham Bar and Grill,** the decor and crowds are sleekly handsome, but upstaged by the designer-chic cuisine—salads springing off the plate and desserts that could double as Easter hats. Mayor Mike is a big fan, and Gotham chef Alfred Portale has definitely got game: think loin of venison with baby pumpkins, poached pears, and wild huckleberries.

**Le top-of-the-line French...** Americans love to abuse the French when it comes to realpolitik disputes, but when it's time to climb the heights of cuisine, there's no nation we turn to quicker. French super-chef Alain Ducasse descended upon the city in the spring of 2000 promising to live up to his many-Michelin-starred reputation, and New Yorkers were waiting with sharpened knives. Unfortunately for Ducasse, they had plenty to rip into: The food was disappointing and the service unfocused. But he stuck it out, the kitchen gelled, and **Alain Ducasse** ended up on top with a rare four-star *Times* review. Reservations are laughably hard to get and the bill will be stratospheric, but you'll be rewarded with scallops and caviar in watercress vichyssoise and cepes ravioli covered in white truffles. The Laura Ashley–on-acid decor of **Le Cirque 2000** never fails to impress, especially if you can actually catch owner Sirio Maccione's eye and nab a prize table in full view of prying eyes. Then savor chef Pierre Schaedelin's braised-lamb tortellini in a sauce of aubergine caviar and curry or cod stuffed with brandade and chorizo. In marked contrast is the quiet refined elegance of **Daniel,** whose chef/owner Daniel Boulud got his start as the chef at the old Le Cirque. Daniel's food ranks at the zenith of French country and haute cuisine—dishes like nine-herb ravioli with chanterelles, ricotta, and tomato coulis, or wild hare braised in red wine with bitter chocolate. Terrence Brennan's **Picholine** is the place to be on the Upper West Side. Get a reservation for later than 8pm to avoid the pre–Lincoln Center crunch, and dig into the bold Mediterranean dishes like horseradish-crusted salmon and halibut in black

truffles. Many a celebrity has followed Vong's owner, Jean-Georges Vongerichten, to his latest establishment, **Jean Georges.** Gourmet and healthy don't belong in the same sentence, but somehow Jean Georges manages to be both. The young garlic soup with frogs' legs and the arctic char with sorrel, potatoes, and horseradish cream are true revelations.

**Ciao down with chic Italian...** New York is littered with Italian restaurants that are a little less spendy but every bit as tasty as the heavy hitters above. **Bar Pitti** on the edge of the Village is Florentine all the way, with rustic pastas and sandwiches on hearty country bread—simple fare to keep the arty crowd from starving. Mario Batali, of the Food Network's **Molto Mario,** is no longer a partner at **Po,** a classy Italian eatery hidden away nearby on little Cornelia Street, but many say it's stronger than ever. It has a long narrow dining room, a postage-stamp-size bar, and a menu that plays inventive games with tried-and-true favorites. Mario's next baby, **Babbo,** was an instant hit. The only thing more remarkable than the inventive trattoria cuisine

### The Lowdown on Little Italy

*With the increasing encroachment of Chinatown upon what was formerly Little Italy's turf—north of Canal Street—the neighborhood made famous by* The Godfather *has lost much of its appeal. More importantly, the quality restaurants are gone. Don't get me wrong, there's plenty of Italian restaurants, especially along Mulberry Street; I just can't recommend most of them in good conscience. The sad truth is that the street has become just another tourist trap, with waiters shamelessly trying to lure customers off the streets by waving menus at them. But don't despair, Franky. All is not lost. If you are bent of having a sit-down in the old neighborhood, head to* ***Il Palazzo****—maybe the only restaurant in the area that still offers respectable Italian cuisine and some semblance of the neighborhood's original charm. If the weather is accommodating, ask for a table in the romantic back garden. Afterwards, take an espresso and a pastry at one of Little Italy's pasticcerie. Our favorite is* ***Caffé Roma,*** *385 Broome St., on the corner of Mulberry (tel 212/226-8413); the cannolis (try the chocolate-covered) and tiramisu are spectacular. Open 8am to midnight daily. Another good bet is* ***Ferrara,*** *195 Grand St., between Mott and Mulberry streets (tel 212/226-6150). Founded in 1892, the pasticceria claims to be America's first espresso bar. Cafe seating is available so you can enjoy instant sweet-tooth gratification. It's open daily 8am to midnight (to 1am on Sat).*

and impeccable service is how hard it is to get a reservation. It came as a great relief when Batali and his partner, Joe Bastianich, opened yet another place, just a few blocks away, called **Lupa.** Now that too is jammed with people waiting to try the prosciutto with figs, the saltimbocca, and the already-renowned oxtail stew. Always accommodating, Joe and Mario opened another spot to handle the overflow. Down Bleecker Street, the **Trattoria Pesce Pasta** is an unpretentious Italian eatery with antipasto beckoning from the front window. Order the linguine with clams or the seafood risotto, and you won't be disappointed—though you'll reek of garlic for hours after.

**Hipster Italian...** Leave it to the East Village and the Lower East Side to put a hipster stamp on Italian cooking. The anchor of the scene is long-running favorite **Il Bagatto** (Italian for "the magician"). With sleight of hand, rich dishes like homemade gnocchi in gorgonzola sauce and paper-thin beef slices in the straccestti al rosmarino are served at reasonable prices. The lasagna is so special it's only offered on Sundays. Just up the street, the fashionable crowd makes tracks for **Max.** Slim diners fill the slim space for simple renderings of Italian classics like osso bucco and rigatoni with eggplant and mozzarella. A couple of avenues over is tiny **Patio Dining,** with its equally tiny kitchen. A seasonal menu attracts hints of nearby Chinatown, like the crispy sea trout with bok choy and rice wine. Newcomer **'Inoteca** opens its windows to barhopping Ludlow Street. The hopping interior does an Italian take on tapas, with paninis, cheese plates, and other small dishes accompanying an excellent wine list.

**Italian when papa's paying...** La cucina classica is raised to brave new heights at **Remi,** in a deliciously airy Midtown dining room lined by Venice's Grand Canal in murals; the risotto takes a while but is marvelously worth the wait, and the ravioli is stuffed with nouvelle sorts of ingredients that would put Mama in shock. The only problem with Tuscan standout **Da Umberto** is the snooty staff. Still, its handsome, wood-trimmed men's-club setting, handsome big biz clientele, and handsome plates of luscious wild game place it atop the short list of great Italians.

For sheer fun, you can't beat the circus theme and revelries at **Osteria del Circo,** complete with Harlequin-patterned chairs and bronze clowns. The food's no joke, though, as the squab with wild mushroom and baccalá with polenta amply prove—though it comes at a price. Warm, welcoming Lydia Bastianich presides over Manhattan's most sumptuous Italian, **Felidia,** a feast for the eye and palate. The room is exquisite, from the lovely tapestries and murals of the Adriatic to the gorgeous handpainted china; the food is orgasmic, including definitive venison with white truffles and grilled polenta with warm octopus. In the Village, the luscious Italian fare at **Il Mulino** hails from the Abruzzi; the coiffed clientele looks like they hail from Greenwich and the Hamptons. **Rao's** restaurant in East Harlem is a New York institution. Family-owned and -operated for over a century, Rao's serves simple, homemade Neapolitan dishes like baked ziti and lasagna. The small army of Rao's devotees includes Woody Allen and Martin Scorsese. There's no set menu; you just tell the chefs what you want and how you want it. Despite steep prices, reservations are just about impossible to get—there are only 10 tables in the entire place.

**Like a big pizza pie...** It's hard to swing a cat in New York without hitting a pizza place that everybody in the neighborhood swears has the best pie in town. For me, anybody but the people on the blocks around **Arturo's** is misinformed. Arturo's is a West Village classic, with an eclectic interior and a full Italian menu. The real draw, however, is the amazing thin-crust coal oven pizza. Top-drawer toppings add to the appeal, including delicious sausages, pepperonis, and meatballs. Tourists eat in while the locals order out. Another West Village legend is **John's,** which has opened uptown satellites to complement the original Bleecker Street location. For an old-school crispy New York pizza, John's has been setting the pace since 1929. Over in NoLiTa, **Lombardi's** has been firing up its coal oven for about 2 decades longer. The ancient Neapolitan family recipe still works, as the occasional around-the-block line will attest. There are **Patsy's Pizzeria**s scattered throughout the city, all claiming to be the tastiest and most original. The best, however, is the East Harlem version. A holdover from the days when the neighborhood was

Italian, Patsy's serves up the New York coal oven classic with an amazing marinara sauce.

**China chic...** At the swish **China Grill,** East and West meet right on the plate with dishes like oriental antipasto and grilled beef in soy-cilantro sauce. **Chiam** is about as fancy schmancy as Chinese gets: track lighting, painted black-and-white high-gloss walls, black lacquer ceiling. But the nouvelle Cantonese fare is magnificent, beautifully presented, and, best of all, low-sodium without sacrificing a bit of flavor. Chiam also has the most comprehensive, intelligent wine list of any Chinese restaurant in the city. **Shun Lee Palace** is the dowager empress, with expensive but superbly turned-out standbys such as Hunan lamb and prawns in black bean sauce. Adam Tihany's design is sexy for a Chinese eatery, replete with a stunning glass dragon light running along the entire ceiling. Another eastside elegant entry is **Tse Yang,** with its lovely antiques and stained glass. Menu highlights include shark's fin soup and crispy boneless sea bass. The best Chinese food in the city is in a rather unelegant Chelsea space. What the decor lacks in chic cachet, the food at **Grand Sichuan International** more than makes up for. The average-Chinese-restaurant dishes like orange beef, salt and pepper squid, and scallops in garlic sauce are anything but average. The off-the-beaten path selections, like smoked tea duck and stir-fried loofah, will show up in your dreams. The secret is out on this place, so expect to see a sophisticated crowd already spilled over onto the street.

**In Chinatown, Jake...** For gustatory adventure, wander down to Chinatown, jammed around the ramparts of the Manhattan Bridge. Canal Street, a nonstop produce bazaar, is the neighborhood's center; the precariously narrow side streets hold Asian treasures, even if their names (Mott, Hester, Elizabeth, Oliver) bespeak the district's earlier Irish and Italian immigrant days. Restaurant decor tends toward velvet pictures of tigers, formica tables, and bare bulbs, while ordering from untranslated menus and non-English-speaking waiters can pose challenges. But what's a meal without a little suspense? Try dunking raw beef, giant clams, un-beheaded shrimp, bean curd, enoki

mushrooms, and spinach greens into a bubbling broth hotpot at the **Triple Eight Palace,** where even the simplest meal turns into a chaotic banquet. **Joe's Shanghai** is the epicenter of the soup-dumpling craze. What are soup dumplings? Little packets filled with mounds of pork that release their juices while they steam, creating a little pool of soup inside the wrapper. Helpful cartoons on the tables show you the right way to eat them. When Joe's is overrun, I like to pop around the corner to **Lin's Dumpling House.** The tables are easier to get and there's a wider range of homemade dumplings. **New York Noodletown** looks like just another dive with ducks strung up in the window, but have faith—this is one of Chinatown's greats. Try any of the egg noodle dishes, the barbequed pig, or the salt-baked seafood combo.

**Dim sum good eats...** Asian appetizers go on parade during brunch at Chinatown dim sum restaurants. My favorite restaurant-picking technique—look for the place that's most packed with locals—is of no use because every place is packed. Then again, most every place is good. My favorite is the **Golden Unicorn,** with a lobby that on weekends looks like an office building during a fire drill. With four floors of dining delight, the wait for pork-filled noodle crepes and balls of shrimp and eggplant usually isn't too long. At **Tai Hong Lau** you fill out your own orders before settling in for a taste-fest, starting perhaps with steamed sausage rolls, or perfect pork and sesame pastries. **Jing Fong** is a virtual dim sum packing house, with a walkie-talkie toting hostess and enough room to accommodate 800. The Cantonese-style cooking is excellent.

**Pots and pan-Asians...** For years, Asian fusion in New York meant "Chino Latino," odd hybrid restaurants usually run by Chinese Cubans and specializing in egg rolls, roasted chicken, and rice and beans. The assimilated Asian scene is exponentially more sophisticated now. Exhibit A is **Asia de Cuba**, the super-chic Cuban-Chinese restaurant in the Morgans Hotel. You'll find the loud thrum of salsa and merengue on the sound system, a boisterous 50-seat marble communal table set dead center, holograms of waterfalls, walls of billowing white curtains, and bizarrely mismatched chairs. But the food is never upstaged by the

scene: It's a seamless fusion of tropical cultures, such as tuna tartare on wonton crisps, orange-pineapple ribs with Japanese jasmine-infused dashi, yucca-crusted grouper with red wine miso sauce. The Cubano sandwich is filled not with pork and pickles but flank steak and Chinese broccoli. **Vong** offers its upscale crowd an amazing hybrid of French and Thai food (rare Muscovy duck breast with tamarind-sesame sauce, anyone?), as well as jaw-dropping, art-filled decor. At Midtown's Maugham-esque **Le Colonial** you half expect a whiff of opium in the air: It's dark and elegant, with sepia-toned photographs and bamboo and wicker up the yin yang. The food is genuinely good—try the roast duck marinated in ginger or the soft salad rolls in rice paper with shrimp. **Indochine** could well be its downtown outpost, with French-tinged Vietnamese food and a see-and-be-scene. The interior is a riot of palm trees, real, painted, and artificial, which also describes the moneyed, rail-thin clientele. For Thai food there's **Kin Khao,** sensuously draped with loads of soft fabrics, right out of the *Story of O;* expect delectable regional curries, especially the amazing catfish in red curry. **Rain** doesn't even resemble an Asian joint, with its deep buff walls and minimalist decor, but it's the happening Upper West Side spot for creative pan-Indochinese fare; order the stir-fried Chinese eggplant in yellow bean sauce or Vietnamese charred beef. **Dawat** is Manhattan's toniest Indian dining experience (50 blocks and several light years removed from East Sixth Street's Curry Row). The digs are coolly stylish, hardly exotic at all, but the tandoori grilled items and creative specials, courtesy of owner/celebrated cookbook author/Indian film star Madhur Jaffrey, are worthy of a Rajah.

### Sour Power

*So you've just had a sumptuous meal in Chinatown, and now it's time for dessert. The Asian vibe is working for you, so you'd like to hang around the neighborhood for a bit. My advice: Stop into the* ***Chinatown Ice Cream Factory,*** *65 Bayard St., between Mott and Elizabeth streets (tel* ***212/608-4170****). The ice cream is made on the premises and is a certain contender for best in the city. Try one of the Asian-inspired flavors such as ginger, mango, almond cookie, litchi, green tea, and the incredible red bean. If you have room after your Chinatown feast, it's a can't miss.*

**Sushi queue...** **Nobu** has redefined the sushi experience for Manhattan diners-out, who never again can order a simple tekke maki (tuna roll) or even uni (sea urchin) after sampling Nobu Matsuhisa's food; just order the **omikase**—chef's special—and be transported. And if you forgot to plan ahead and call for your reservation 3 months before your trip, don't worry—just take a couple steps up the block to **Next Door Nobu.** They don't take reservations; you just give your name to the hostess and find out how long your wait will be. Sometimes it's an hour, sometimes it's 5 minutes. The menu is slightly shorter but still outstanding. **Yama** in Union Square is depressingly lit and the lines are legendary, but aficionados swear by its enormous slabs of fresh tender sushi. **Tomoe Sushi** has glaring lighting and utterly surly waiters that look like they'd like to use a Ginzu knife on you, but you won't mind when the fish melts in your mouth. Nearby **Blue Ribbon Sushi** is a foodie favorite for such creative American variations as dragon roll (tuna wrapped in avocado cut to resemble scales) and fried oyster roll. An East Village standout is **Jeollado,** a Japanese restaurant with a little Korean-Brazilian flavor snuck in. The huge house rolls are the way to go here.

**Cooking to a salsa beat...** Latino cuisine is sizzling hot in Manhattan. The parade is led by **Patria,** with its dramatic bi-level space of mosaics and exposed piping. Andrew DiCataldo has taken over for Douglas Rodriguez, and, after a rocky start, has the critics buzzing about the Nuevo Latino cuisine again. His roast chicken in chipotle sauce is disarming. For authentic Peruvian cuisine, **Rinconcito Peruano Restaurant** in Hells Kitchen is impossible to beat. The tacu-tacu and Chinese fried rice are spectacular, as is anything served in the tangy tomato and onion sauce. **Café Habana** is an updated Cuban diner with a typical Nolita Beautiful People clientele. The portions are small, as are the tables, but the seasonings are spot-on. The Cuban sandwich is a standout, as is the cactus salad, and don't miss the decadent grilled corn on the cob. Nearby **Café Colonial** does the cafe scene Brazilian style. Delicious black beans and a great steak make a perfect accompaniment for watching the parade of people on Houston. A few blocks away in the East Village, **Boca Chica** ups the energy a few notches with Afro/Brazilian

food (savory rice and beans and Bahian dishes like shrimp in spicy coconut sauce) and decor (dig the zebra-striped fabrics). If you're over 25, however, you may be tempted to ask for a senior citizen's discount. The Nuevo Latino cooking at nearby **Paladar** remains affordable without sacrificing sophistication. On the weekends there are great brunches with authentic Spanish coffee.

**South of the border...** New York is not noted for its cactus cuisine, but old standbys **Rosa Mexicano** and **Zarela** offer the closest thing to bona fide Mexican food to a lively young professional clientele that digs margaritas and great guacamole. The best burritos in town come from **Burritoville,** a local chain with cooking that's an order of magnitude better than fast Mexican food needs to be. Prices are low, and vegetarians have a lot of options. **Mary Ann's** is another solid local chain, with a slightly more authentic menu. The ambience tends toward the boisterous, and pitchers of margaritas fuel many a pick-up. Daily specials augment the regular menu's fresh seafood and tasty chicken mole. For upscale Mexican, **Dos Caminos** in the Flatiron district is the new caliente spot. There are great ceviches, tasty fish tacos made with red snapper, and spicy guacamole that's custom-prepared right at the table. A little ways sur you'll find the SoHo outpost.

**Mediterraneo...** Manhattan boasts a wide variety of Middle Eastern/Greek/North African restaurants. **Layla** marries classic Moroccan with Mediterranean culinary traditions. Standout dishes include a couscous royale (with shellfish and merguez sausage), herb-crusted halibut wrapped in arugula, and cinnamon-glazed lamb shank with harissa bean stew. Soak in the sexy souk-like ambience of **Casa la Femme,** its low cushioned seats swaddled in colorful curtains. Supermodels and their dates imperiously ignore the fab tajines and even Monday's belly dancers. Manhattan's top Greek restaurant is the Flatiron District's **Periyali,** decorated to resemble an Attic farmhouse, with a pricey menu featuring such intriguing dishes as octopus in red wine and cinnamon ice cream, both pure ambrosia. For less Olympian prices try **Gus' Place,** a West Village local's spot. The old favorites are all here, spinach pie, lamb souvlaki with tzatziki sauce, and a classic Greek salad, all rich

and flavorful without being overdone. Even more casual is **Moustache,** an affordable cafe on a lovely tree-lined Village street. Start off with the babaghannush, served with fresh lemon juice and olive oil, and follow up with a "pitza," a Middle Eastern take on pizza served on a crisp pita crust.

**Home/style...** The city's relentless cosmopolitanism can drive a person to seek simpler pleasures. Although comfort food and New York don't seem like natural companions, the city has plenty of spots where you can dine on the dishes you miss from your short-pants days. For a Hollywood hangout in TriBeCa, **Bubby's** is pretty damn casual. It's basically home cooking, only instead of mom you've got a world-class chef who isn't nagging you to get a job. The menu favors comfort food like meat loaf, mashed potatoes, and chicken sandwiches, but the delivery is first class all the way. (The prices lean toward the first class side of things, too.) Fresh ingredients and sophisticated preparation find their way into dessert, with Bubby's fabulous selection of pies and cakes. A fine, fine burger waits inside a dark West Village bar called the **Corner Bistro.** The Bistro's burger is served on a small paper plate and it's totally no-frills, although the fries and old-school American cheese are excellent augmentations. That the Corner Bistro serves the best burger in New York is a well-guarded secret, known only to you and the 10 thousand other people waiting beside you at the bar. The **Blue Smoke** is a Gramercy barbeque joint so dedicated to comfort food you can get a bologna sandwich. The St. Louis-style spare ribs are excellent, as is the not-exactly-kosher bacon cheeseburger, made with house-cured bacon. New Jersey is known for its classic diners, but Manhattan gets the nod for the updated versions. The most recent entry is **Westville** in the West Village. The old favorites go upscale, like the spiced up corn on the cob that's served with lime, cumin, and cotija cheese. Also new to the West Village is a second location of **Mama's Food Shop,** with delicious maternal favorites like meat loaf and roasted chicken. The soul-tinged veggie sides are especially nurturing, ranging from corn salad to mama's mac daddy mac & cheese to honey-glazed sweet potatoes. Wash it all down with homemade gingermint iced tea. The East Village has Mama's original location,

with a screen door and rickety tables contributing to the casual Southern vibe. The kitschy portraits on the walls work just about every mother archetype imaginable, while the indifferent servers do their best to affect long-gone Village 'tude.

**Good for the soul...** **Sylvia's** of Harlem and the funky little **Pink Teacup** in the West Village used to be the first and last words in Manhattan soul food. Both remain the city's chief suppliers of artery-clogging standards like Crisco-fried chicken, barbecued ribs, and candied sweet potatoes, but a raft of new southern-style restaurants have opened their doors, rewriting Granny's recipe book. **Jezebel,** an elegant theater-district spot, has white porch swings, glittering chandeliers, fine napery, and a racially mixed clientele with at least one thing in common—pockets deep enough to afford the seductive entrees on owner Alberta Wright's menu. Last but not least, a real finger-lickin' barbecue place right in Midtown: **Virgil's Real Barbecue,** which could almost be a clone of Kansas City's fabled Arthur Bryant's and is just about as good as Gotham can do when it comes to smokin' pork. The place does charge a bit steeply to pig out, but you get two sides with each entree (dirty rice, mashed potatoes, pickled beets, or collards and rice). Wash it all down with a Rolling Rock and some of Virgil's piquant sauce.

**We never close...** The classic Manhattan all-nighter is **Empire Diner,** an Art Deco marvel way west in Chelsea, with live music during the wee hours and sublime people-watching from the sidewalk tables. Another Chelsea night owl, **Cafeteria,** reworks the greasy spoon concept for the tourists from Jersey who've replaced the fashionista crowd. The overstyled waitstaff serves updated diner classics like mac 'n' cheese, as well as lighter fare like goat cheese and cherry tomato salad, in a sleek and sparse setting (think white, white, a little brown, oh wait—more white). **Florent,** in the Meat-Packing District, is the delightful equivalent of a French greasy spoon—so real you feel like ordering a pastis with your steak frites. The bizarre decor includes ugly brick-red banquettes and weird pop art paintings; the people who stagger in as the night wears on match the setting: hip but definitely odd. ***Note:*** It's only open 24-hours

### The Caffeine Scene

*Manhattan has not been immune to the virulent Starbucks strain, and the infection stretches the length and breadth of the island. There are a few survivors, however, should you want to take your daily dose local-style. SoHo's* ***Space Untitled,*** *133 Greene St., between Houston and Prince streets, is an art gallery disguised as a coffee shop, with a coziness that defies the dimensions of the cavernous interior (tel 212/260-8962). The* ***Lotus Lounge,*** *35 Clinton St., on the corner of Stanton street and Clinton, is a rustic coffee spot on the Lower East Side that transforms into a pub at night, should you be among a crowd with mixed agendas (tel 212/253-1144). If you take your coffee gay, the* ***Big Cup*** *in Chelsea, 228 Eighth Avenue, between 21st and 22nd streets, offers big lounging guys in addition to big doses of caffeine (tel 212/206-0059). Tucked into a small, 19th-century storefront in the West Village,* ***Jack's Stir Brewed Coffee,*** *136 West 10th St., between Greenwich Avenue and Wavery Place, has the feel of an old general store and serves some of the best organic, shade-grown, fair trade coffee in the city (tel 212/929-0821).* ***DT.UT,*** *1626 Second Ave., between 84th and 85th streets, means Downtown Uptown, a commentary on the ambience at this Upper East Side lounge with plush chairs, marvy coffees (strong enough to give you the DTs), desserts, and zilch attitude (tel 212/327-1327).*

on the weekends; Sunday through Thursday it closes at 5am. **Kang Suh**'s barbecue never stops, with hot coals delivered right to your table. Grill your own marinated meat, or order off the full Korean and Japanese menu. After a night of boozing in the East Village, head over to **Veselka,** a venerable Ukranian institution known for its gorgeous mural-rich makeover and quintessentially indifferent service. The menu ranges from omelettes to meat stews to stuffed plums. Another good munchies-satisfier is nearby **Crif Dog.** Veggie dogs and regular dogs stand in the shadow of the stoner's dream: a bacon-wrapped, fried Crif Dog with Teriyaki sauce, pineapple, and scallions. No one told the guys at **Bereket Turkish Kebob House** that late-night fast food doesn't have to have four-star taste. Velvety babaghannush and amazing kabobs make this a perfect spot to re-energize after a night of Lower East Side misbehaving.

**New York classics...** The architect Philip Johnson designed the airy Pool Room and dark, woody Grill Room at **The Four Seasons,** where the service is impeccable and the tables are so far apart that the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade could almost be routed between them. Chef

Christian Albin celebrates each season with a new menu. Dover sole, steak tartare, and tuna carpaccio head up the list, but people have even been known to rhapsodize over The Four Seasons' baked potato. Trademark miniature jockeys still line up outside the **'21' Club,** while heavy hitters jockey for position inside this oh-so-masculine former speakeasy. The New American menu has been reinvigorated, and you can brag about paying $24 for a burger. **Tavern on the Green** is set in a Central Park bower haunted by topiary beasts, lit up like a diamond tiara at night. Locals tend to stay away because the kitschy beauty of the site makes it a tourist magnet, and the food is just okay. **The River Cafe,** tucked beneath the eastern end of the Brooklyn Bridge, is known for its wonderful views, but the cooking is just as eye-opening. Chef Brad Steelman's menu features such delicacies as pheasant breast with cornbread stuffing and poached lobster in **fine herbs** oil. At **One if by Land, Two if by Sea,** strings of white lights twinkle in the garden, and four fireplaces add to the romance. Chef David McInerney does classics like beef Wellington—and newer classics like flash-seared yellowtail—in a historic carriage house in the West Village, once owned by Aaron Burr.

**Out in the open air...** Rents aren't cheap in Manhattan, and restaurateurs have to make the most of what space they have. Many use tiny chairs and cramped layouts to keep capacity high, although that can mean a hectic experience that diners don't seek to repeat. A recent trend has been to increase the square footage by opening the doors. More and more places—especially in SoHo and the Village—are setting out tables on the sidewalk, in a handkerchief-size back garden, or even on a roof terrace. The terrace to die for is at the aptly named **Terrace In The Sky,** atop an apartment building uptown, near the Columbia campus. The views can almost compare with those from the Empire State Building, and the food and drinks are worlds better. In Midtown, the **Bryant Park Grill** and its more casual kid brother, the Bryant Park Cafe, overlook a park that really does remind you of Paris. They spring to life weekdays at five, when young Midtown professionals come over to kick back. The food is mediocre at best—stick to drinks and snacks. **Le Jardin Bistro** lives up to its name and gives SoHo diners a big, vine-covered garden to enjoy. The food

is classic casual French—would you like *moules frites* or *steak au poivre*? The best garden in the East Village belongs to the **Miracle Grill,** where you can fill up on great Southwestern chow at fair prices.

**Hello deli...** Delicatessens are as quintessentially New York as half-naked, guitar-playing cowboys in Times Square. Midtown's **Carnegie Deli** is perhaps the most famous of the delis, with epic portions and immortal sandwiches like the Carnegie Haul (that's a pastrami, corned beef, and salami triple-decker). If you want to refer to an unbelievably steep bill for a simple sandwich lunch in your postcards home, this tourist-magnet is the place. Another pricey spot is **Barney Greengrass, the Sturgeon King.** Lox is the key to this daytime-only deli's fame, although they do a nice job with whitefish and (you guessed it) sturgeon as well. Nearby **Artie's Delicatessen** packs them in with old favorites ranging from heavenly pastrami to family-recipe chicken soup. This classic deli, with its cozy old-fashioned decor, has only one dark secret: It's less than 5 years old. New Yorkers have been raving about **Katz's** on the Lower East Side for about a century longer. One look inside and you'll think nothing has changed in the intervening years: You still take a ticket at the door when you come in, the neon beer signs still glow, and the "Send a salami to your boy in the army" slogans still cover the walls. The corned beef, cured and slow-dried for over a month, is the best in the city. Another Downtown bastion of authenticity is the **Second Avenue Deli,** with its austere service and legendary cuisine. All mama's favorites are here, from gefilte fish to matzo ball soup to chopped liver. This is a real old-fashioned non-dairy restaurant, so you won't find any butter or cheese, let alone cream for your coffee (though the food is so tasty, odds are you won't even notice the absence).

**Show starters...** Most of the Theater District's restaurants don't earn many standing ovations. There are plenty of eating spots in the neighborhood, of course, and the whole stretch of West 46th Street from Seventh to Ninth avenues has come to be called Restaurant Row. **Orso** occupies stylish digs there and is a notable exception, offering smashing cuisine from the north of Italy, plus famous faces and power brokers among the clientele. An exciting newcomer

to the area is **District,** which lives up to its Theater District locale with some dramatic dining. Chef Sam DeMarco wows the crowds with rich dishes like chicken cannelloni served atop a confit-style crispy chicken leg and roasted squash, and his pastry chef keeps up, offering lush flavors like huckleberry cheesecake. Don't worry about getting hungry during the show.... Right in the middle of West 44th Street's gaudy marquees, wood-trimmed **Carmine's** is the modern version of Mamma Leone's, that massive stage-set cliché of a New York Italian restaurant. The difference here is that the food is the real thing, and it's not just for tourists—everybody comes for straightforward, delicious southern Italian fare. **Lattanzi** offers traditional Italian cuisine, but once the theater crowd takes off (around 8pm), an original Roman-Jewish menu kicks in. The dishes may be light and simple, like swordfish with lemon and capers or sole in vinegar, but the flavors are vivid. More affordable Italian can be found at **The Hourglass Tavern.** There's a lot of character in the ramshackle decor and eclectic menu, which includes several prix fixes. If you've got a curtain to make and you're watching the clock, you can flip one of the hourglasses that adorn the walls above each table. **Firebird** offers haute Tsarist decor, all velvet settees, Ballet Russes costumes, and gilt chandeliers; the food (try the grilled quail, blinis, sturgeon roe, or the borscht with smoked pork loin) is served on sterling (with equally sterling service).

**Bistros with cachet...** Oysters on the half shell and chardonnay go down smoothly at **Le Pescadou,** where you can sit by the open French doors fronting lower Sixth Avenue, communing with the potted geraniums. Don't count on a bargain meal, but you can be fairly certain of a nice bowl of lobster bisque or bouillabaisse. **Tartine,** more a closet than a restaurant, is on one of the prettiest blocks in the West Village, with an inevitable line outside the door and tables squeezed together. The food's not spectacular, but it's authentically Parisian—complete with rushed and rude service—at prices cheaper than you'd find on the Left Bank. The small lace-curtained bar at **Café de Bruxelles**—not French, obviously, but a kissing cousin—is an absolute joy, with a long list of Belgian beers, perfect pommes frites, and ever-appealing specialty wines. Close by is Keith

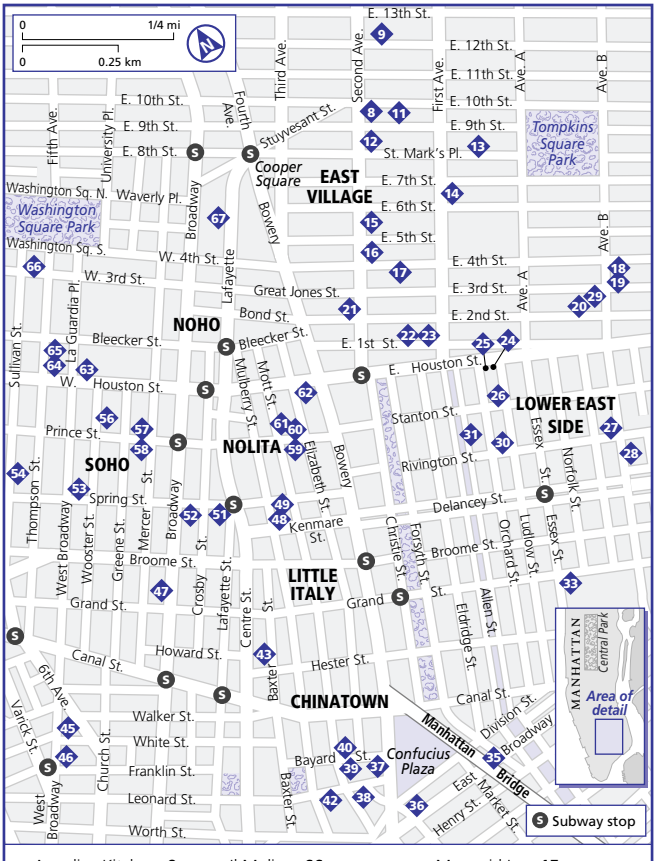
McNally's **Pastis,** which looks, feels, and tastes like the real bistro deal. Great for brunch, and outdoor tables in the summertime are excellent for people-watching. Pastis's cousin restaurant **Balthazar** opened to much hype, but the mockably trendy crowd has moved on and left behind delicious French food in SoHo. The interior is decked out to resemble a fin-de-siècle Paris bistro, with huge mirrors on mustard walls and lots of brass trim. The decor may be faux, but the cuisine, including staples such as sautéed skate and country rillette of rabbit, is *comme il faut.*

**Afternoon delights...** **Bistrot Margot** is a choice spot to take a break from Nolita's shopping distractions. The pork roti and the lamb Provençal are as simple and elegant as the decor. The best part is a small garden in back with cozy tables and lovely shade. Nearby **Café Gitane** is the kind of place where you'll see two supermodels, three Web designers, and four DJs all sipping their lattes and eating fresh granola together. It sounds like a recipe for disaster, but Gitane manages to pull off the pretentious scene without being too irritating. Maybe it's the chic continental cooking, or maybe it's just the fresh avocado bread. If it's tea you crave, Greenwich Village's **Tea & Sympathy** is like a Manchester middle-class tea shop, the menu full of bangers and mash, too many tables, and not a spot of sherry to be had. Far prettier is the West Village's **Anglers and Writers,** with Victoria's Secret decor, charming mismatched china, and buttery cakes, pies, and cookies. In the Flatiron District, the cozy, countrified **T Salon & Emporium** serves up everything from proper cucumber sandwiches and scones with clotted cream to curried chicken salad delicately infused with tea.

**Voyage of the bagel...** To infuse a bagel with rosemary and sun-dried tomatoes, let alone coconut and pineapple, should be a hanging offense. Alas, all across America entrepreneurs peddle dough discs undeserving of the name "bagel." Only in New York can one find the classic firm-on-the-outside, chewy-on-the-inside "real" bagel, topped with legitimate flavors like sesame, poppy, garlic, and salt. Declaring the best bagel in the city is a task fraught with controversy, but there are several clear contenders. By reputation, **H&H Bagels** is number one. The Upper West

Side retail location is routinely packed, though it offers no fixings for its tasty, if a little too sweet, bagels. For full service go farther north to **Absolute Bagels,** with its full range of cream cheeses and fantastic whitefish salad. The bagels are a little puffy but still completely delicious. **Ess-A-Bagel** has two eastside locations, in Gramercy and Midtown. Both are full service, with great lox, although the bagels themselves are too large for purists. For my money, to get the best bagel in New York you should go straight to the source. **Kossar's Bialys** on the Lower East Side has fresh-baked, perfect-size, perfect-textured bagels. The everything version is unparalleled, although you're on your own for toppings outside of a handful of schmears in the fridge.

# Map 7: Downtown Dining—East Village, Lower East Side, Chinatown, Little Italy, SoHo & NoLita

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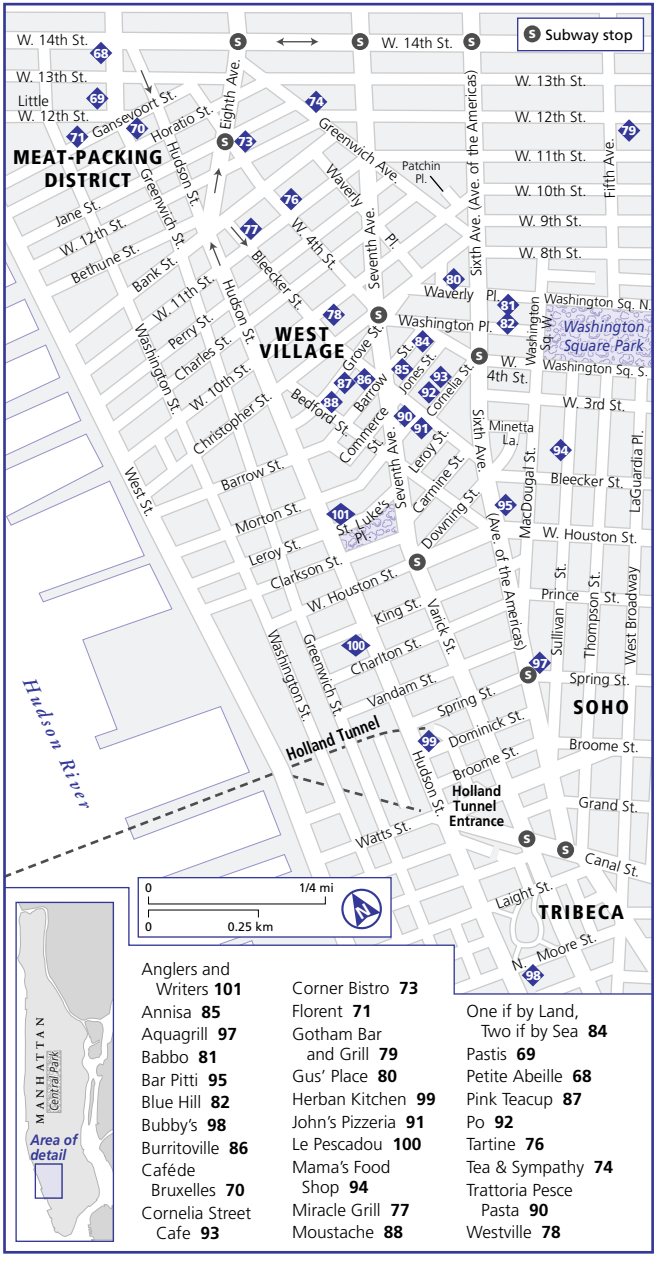
# Map 8: Downtown Westside & Lower Manhattan Dining

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# Map 9: Midtown, Chelsea, Flatiron District & Gramercy Park Dining



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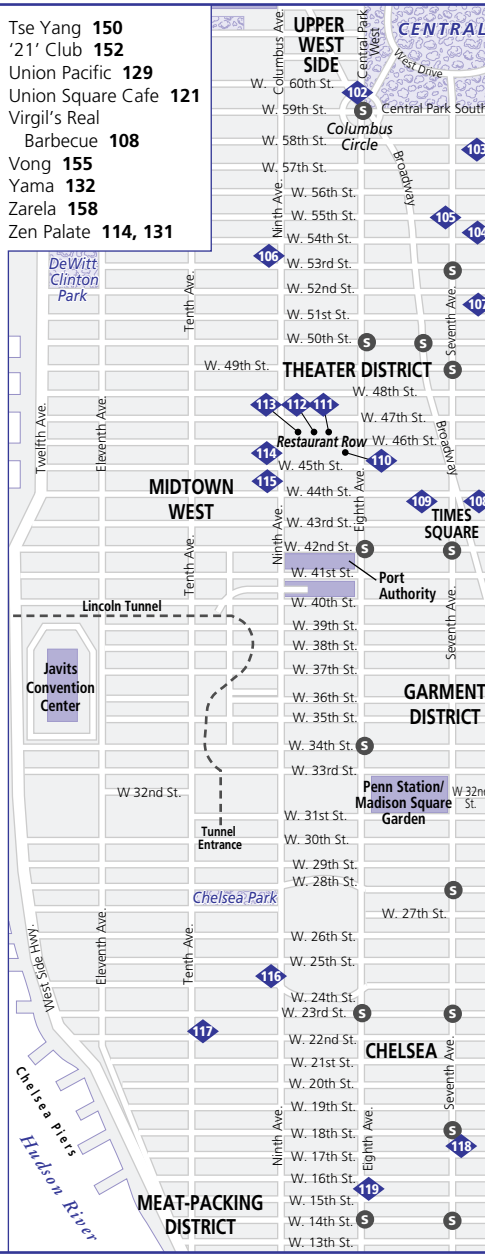

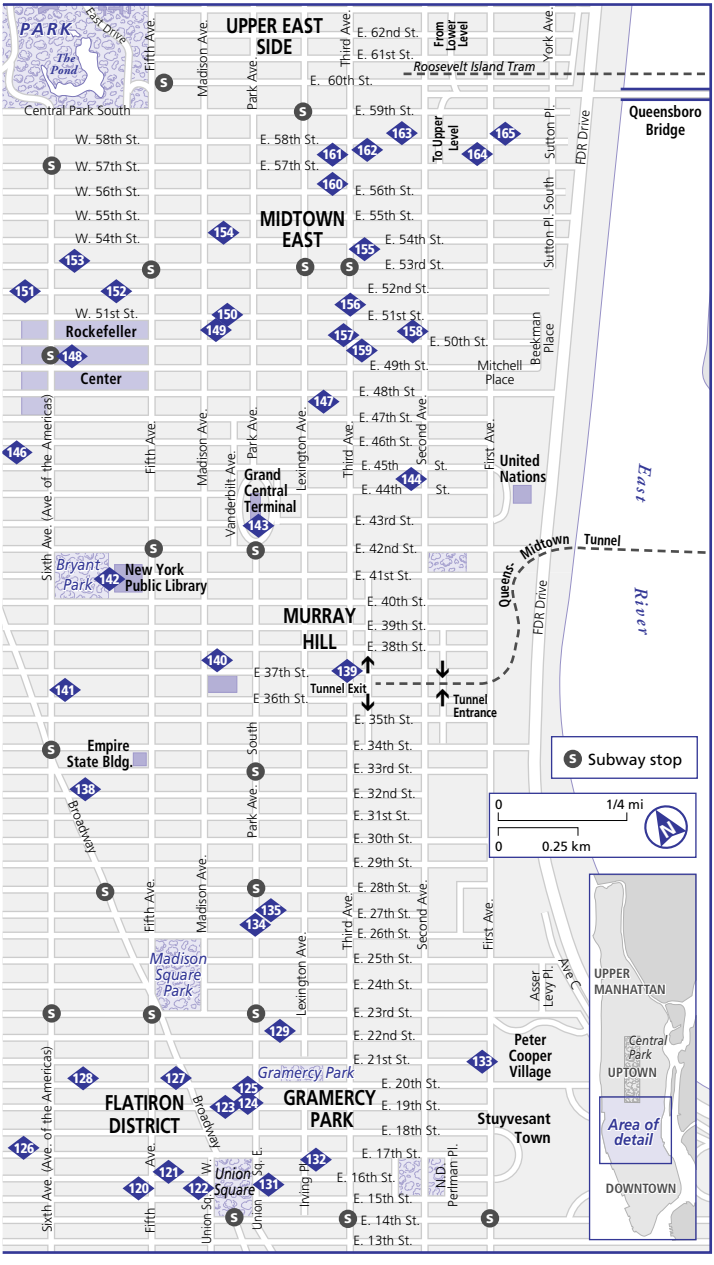
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The Pond
Central Park South
UPPER EAST SIDE
MIDTOWN EAST
MURRAY HILL
Grand Central Terminal
Rockefeller Center
New York Public Library
Bryant Park
Empire State Bldg.
Madison Square Park
Union Square
Gramercy Park
FLATIRON DISTRICT
GRAMERCY PARK
United Nations
Peter Cooper Village
Stuyvesant Town
Queensboro Bridge
Roosevelt Island Tram
From Lower Level
To Upper Level
Tunnel Exit
Tunnel Entrance
Midtown Tunnel
Queens
FDR Drive
East River
Mitchell Place
Beekman Place
Sutton Pl. South
Sutton Pl.
York Ave.
First Ave.
Second Ave.
Third Ave.
Lexington Ave.
Park Ave.
Park Ave. South
Madison Ave.
Fifth Ave.
Sixth Ave. (Ave. of the Americas)
Broadway
Vanderbilt Ave.
Irving Pl.
N.D. Pertman Pl.
Asser Levy Pl.
Asser Levy Playground
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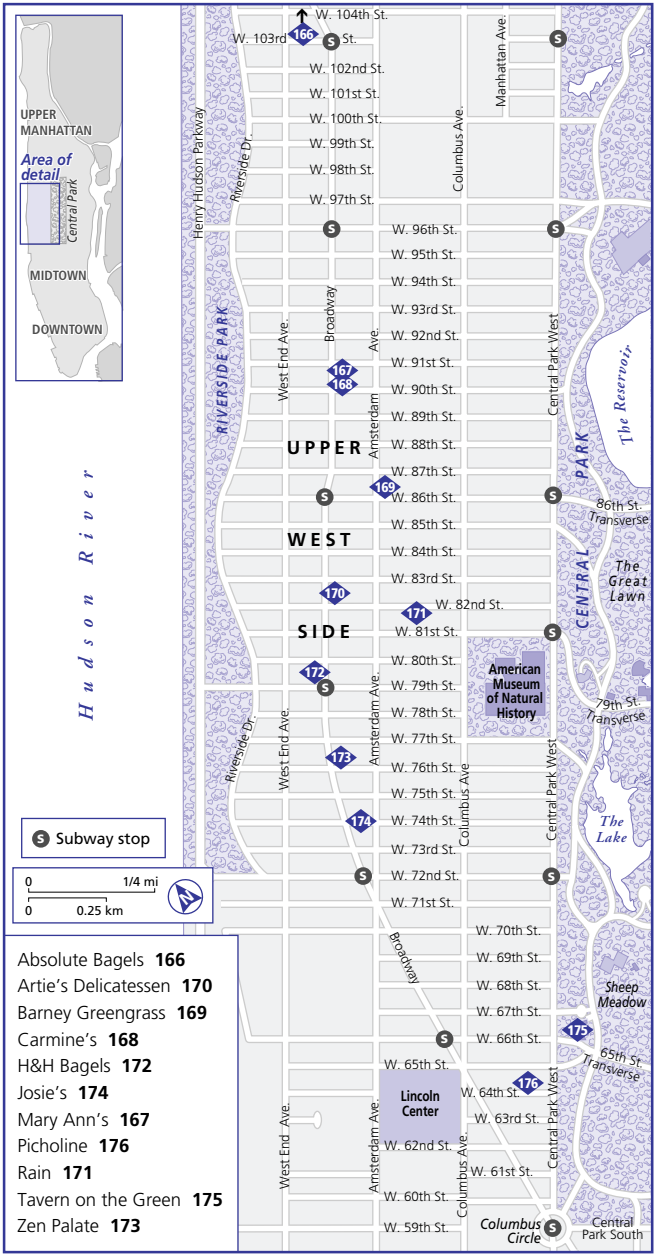
W. 56th St.
W. 55th St.
W. 54th St.
W. 51st St.
W. 13th St.
Union Sq. W.
Union Sq. E.
Subway stop
0 1/4 mi
0 0.25 km
N
UPPER MANHATTAN
Central Park
UPTOWN
Area of detail
DOWNTOWN

# Map 10: Uptown West Dining



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Picholine **176**
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# The Index



| | |
|---|---|
| $$$$ | over $50 |
| $$$ | $35–$50 |
| $$ | $20–$35 |
| $ | under $20 |

Per person for a three-course meal, not including drinks, tax, or tip.

The following **abbreviations** are used for credit cards:

| | |
|---|---|
| AE | American Express |
| DC | Diners Club |
| DISC | Discover |
| MC | MasterCard |
| V | Visa |

**Absolute Bagels (p. 79)** UPPER WEST SIDE *BAGELS* The bagels and the cream cheeses are absolutely fabulous.... *Tel 212/932-2105. 2708 Broadway, between 107th and 108th sts. 1/9 trains to 110th St. Open daily 6am–9pm. No credit cards. $*

**See Map 10 on p. 84, bullet 166.**

**Alain Ducasse (p. 63)** MIDTOWN WEST *FRENCH* French star Ducasse has raised the bar for luxe dining in NYC. Good luck getting a reservation.... *Tel 212/265-7300. www.alain-ducasse.com. 158 W. 58th St. between 6th and 7th aves. N/R/W trains to 57th St. Jacket and tie and reservations required. Open Tues, Wed, Sat 6:30–9pm; Thurs–Fri noon–2pm, 6:30–9pm. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. $$$$$*

**See Map 9 on p. 82, bullet 103.**

**Angelica Kitchen (p. 60)** EAST VILLAGE *VEGAN* Uber-macrobiotic restaurant with classic neo-hippie Bohemian look and feel.... *Tel 212/228-2909. 300 East 12th St. 4/5/6/L/N/Q/R/W trains to 14th St./Union Sq. Reservations accepted for parties of 6 or more. Open daily 11:30am–10:30pm. No credit cards. $*

**See Map 7 on p. 80, bullet 9.**

**Anglers and Writers (p. 78)** WEST VILLAGE *AMERICAN* Victoria's Secret decor, high tea, and happy brunches.... *Tel 212/675–0810. 420 Hudson St. 1/9 train to Houston St. Open Mon–Fri 11am–midnight, Sat–Sun 10pm–2am. AE, MC, V. $*

**See Map 8 on p. 81, bullet 101.**

**Annisa (p. 61)** WEST VILLAGE *NEW AMERICAN* Chef Anita Lo shows off her world-cuisine tendencies in a subdued, soothing setting.... *Tel 212/741-6699. 13 Barrow St. 1/9 trains to Christopher St. or A/C/E/F/V trains to W. 4th St. Open daily 5:30–11pm (till 10pm Sun). AE, MC, V. $$$$*

**See Map 8 on p. 81, bullet 85.**

**Aquagrill (p. 58)** SOHO *SEAFOOD* Classy, subdued SoHo seafood spot with a raw bar that's nothing short of spectacular.... *Tel 212/274-0505. www.aquagrill.com. 210 Spring St. C/E trains to Spring St. Reservations recommended. Open Tues–Thurs noon–3pm, 6–10:45pm, until 11:45pm Fri, Sat–Sun noon–3:45pm, Sat dinner 6–11:45pm, Sun dinner 6–10:30pm. AE, MC, V. $$$*

**See Map 8 on p. 81, bullet 97.**

**Artie's Delicatessen (p. 76)** UPPER WEST SIDE *DELICATESSEN* The menu offers tasty salmon and salads and other diner fare, but the more decadent deli meats may prove irresistible.... *Tel 212/579-5959. 2290 Broadway, between 82nd and 83rd sts. 1/9 trains to 79th St. No reservations. Open daily 9am–11pm (till 11:30pm Fri–Sat). AE, DISC, MC, V. $*

**See Map 10 on p. 84, bullet 170.**

**Arturo's (p. 66)** WEST VILLAGE *ITALIAN* Tasty coal oven pizza heads up a full, old-fashioned Italian menu.... *Tel 212/677-3820. 106 W. Houston St. 1/9 trains to Houston St. Open daily 4pm–1am, Fri–Sat until 2am. No credit cards. $*

**See Map 7 on p. 80, bullet 63.**

**Asia de Cuba (p. 68)** MIDTOWN EAST *ASIAN FUSION* From owner Ian Schrager, designer Philipe Starck, and chef Robert Trainor; top spot for a steamy wok-and-roll evening out.... *Tel 212/726–7755. 237 Madison Ave. 4/5/6/S trains to Grand Central. Reservations required. Open Mon–Wed noon–11:30pm, Thurs–Fri until midnight, Sat 5:30pm–12am, Sun 5:30–11pm. AE, DC, MC, V. $$$*

**See Map 9 on p. 82, bullet 140.**

**Aureole (p. 62)** UPPER EAST SIDE *NEW AMERICAN* Fancy food in an attractive East Side town house.... *Tel 212/319-1660. www.aureolerestaurant.com. 34 E. 61st St. N/R/W trains to 5th Ave. Jacket and reservations required. Open Mon–Fri noon–2:30pm and 5:30-11pm, Sat. 5–11:30pm. AE, MC, V. $$$$*

**See Map 6 on p. 52, bullet 177.**

**Babbo (p. 64)** WEST VILLAGE *ITALIAN* Inventive Roman cooking in a romantic Greenwich Village setting.... *Tel 212/777-0303. 110*

*Waverly Place. A/C/E or F/V trains to W. 4th St. Reservations recommended. Open daily 5:30–11:30pm, Sun 5–11pm. AE, MC, V. $$$$*

**See Map 8 on p. 81, bullet 81.**

**Balthazar** **(p. 78)** SOHO *FRENCH* Bistro with capital A attitude yet admittedly capital food.... *Tel 212/965-1414. www.balthazarny.com. 80 Spring St. 6 train to Spring St. or N/R trains to Prince St. Reservations recommended. Open 7:30am–1:30am, Fri–Sat open until 2am, Sun open until midnight. AE, MC, V. $$$*

**See Map 7 on p. 80, bullet 52.**

**Bar Pitti** **(p. 64)** WEST VILLAGE *ITALIAN* Italian chic with streetside tables in the lower Village.... *Tel 212/982-3300. 268 6th Ave. A/C/E or F/V trains to W. 4th St. Open daily noon–midnight. No credit cards. $$*

**See Map 8 on p. 81, bullet 95.**

**Barney Greengrass, the Sturgeon King** **(p. 76)** UPPER WEST SIDE *DELICATESSEN* Lox, whitefish, and sturgeon fit for a discerning Uptown palate.... *Tel 212/724-4707. 541 Amsterdam Ave., between 86th and 87th sts. 1/9/B/C trains to 86th St. Open Mon–Fri 8am–4:30pm, Sat and Sun 8am–5pm, takeout until 6pm daily. No credit cards. $*

**See Map 10 on p. 84, bullet 169.**

**Bereket Turkish Kebob House** **(p. 74)** LOWER EAST SIDE *TURKISH* Kabobs and other Turkish delights, all homemade, served all day and all night.... *Tel 212/475-7700. 187 E. Houston St. at Orchard. F/V trains to 2nd Ave. Open 24 hours. No credit cards. $*

**See Map 7 on p. 80, bullet 25.**

**Bistro Margot** **(p. 78)** SOHO *FRENCH* Cute French cafe with small garden in back.... *Tel 212/274-1027. 26 Prince St. between Elizabeth and Mott sts. 6 train to Spring St. or N/R trains to Prince St. No reservations. Open Sun–Thurs 11am–11pm, Fri–Sat 10am–midnight. AE. $$*

**See Map 7 on p. 80, bullet 59.**

**Blue Hill** **(p. 61)** WEST VILLAGE *NEW AMERICAN* The elegant seasonal menu at this West Village neighborhood spot is based on fresh produce from the Hudson Valley.... *Tel 212/539-1776. www.bluehillnyc.com. 75 Washington Place. A/C/E/F/V trains to W. 4th St. Open daily 5:30–11pm, Sun until 10pm. AE, MC, V. $$$$*

**See Map 8 on p. 81, bullet 82.**

**Blue Ribbon Sushi** **(p. 70)** SOHO *JAPANESE* You order the fish according to ocean at this ultra-popular spot.... *Tel 212/343-0404. 119 Sullivan St. C/E trains to Spring St. No reservations. Open daily noon–2am. AE, DC, MC, V. $$$*

**See Map 7 on p. 80, bullet 54.**

**Blue Smoke** (p. 72) GRAMERCY PARK *BARBECUE* Great burgers and even better house-cured bacon.... *Tel 212/447-7733. www.bluesmoke.com. 116 East 27th St., between Park and Lexington aves. 6 train to 28th St. Reservations recommended. Open daily 11:30am–11pm, late-night menu Wed–Sat 11pm–1am. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. $$*

**See Map 9 on p. 82, bullet 135.**

**Boca Chica** (p. 70) EAST VILLAGE *LATINO* Fun Latin and Caribbean eating, drinking, and making merry.... *Tel 212/473-0108. 13 1st Ave., F/V trains to 2nd Ave. Open Mon–Thurs 5:30–11pm, Fri–Sat 5:30pm–midnight, Sun noon–4pm, 5:30–11pm. AE, DISC, MC, V. $$*

**See Map 7 on p. 80, bullet 23.**

**Bouley** (p. 56) TRIBECA *FRENCH* Chic New Yorkers descend in droves upon this deceptively simple spot run by star chef/owner David Bouley.... *Tel 212/964-2525. 120 W. Broadway. 1/9/2/3 or A/C trains to Chambers St. Reservations required. Open daily 11:30am–3pm, 5:30–10:30pm. AE, MC, V. $$$$*

**See Map 6 on p. 52, bullet 6.**

**Bryant Park Grill** (p. 74) MIDTOWN *NEW AMERICAN* Nouvelle American in Midtown's prettiest garden. If the weather permits, head for the roof garden.... *Tel 212/840-6500. 25 W. 40th St., behind New York Public Library. B/D/F/V/7 trains to 42nd St. Open Sun–Mon 5–9:30pm, Tues–Wed 5–10:30pm, Thurs–Sat 5–11pm, lunch daily 11:30am–3:30pm. AE, MC, V. $$$*

**See Map 9 on p. 82, bullet 142.**

**Bubby's** (p. 72) TRIBECA *AMERICAN* Great home-style food and amazing specialty pies.... *Tel 212/219-0666. www.bubbys.com. 120 Hudson St., at N. Moore St. 1/9 trains to Franklin St. Reservations recommended for dinner (not accepted for brunch). Open Mon–Thurs 8am–11pm, Fri 8am–midnight, Sat 9am–4:30pm and 6pm–midnight, Sun 9am–10pm. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. $$*

**See Map 8 on p. 81, bullet 98.**

**Burritoville** (p. 71) CITYWIDE *MEXICAN* Fresh-made burritos and other Mexican fare, with a host of veggie-friendly options.... *Tel 212/633-9249. www.burritoville.com. 298 Bleecker St., near 7th Ave., among 12 locations. 1/9 trains to Christopher St. Open daily 11am–11pm, Fri and Sat until midnight. AE, MC V. $*

**See Map 8 on p. 81, bullet 86.**

**Café de Bruxelles** (p. 77) MEAT-PACKING DISTRICT *BELGIAN* Belgian beer, mussels, salads, and seafood stews, with a stylish dining room and comfortable pocket bar.... *Tel 212/206-1830. 118 Greenwich Ave. A/C/E/L or 1/2/3/9 train to 14th St. Open daily noon–midnight. AE, DC, MC, V. $$*

**See Map 8 on p. 81, bullet 70.**

**Café Colonial (p. 70)** SOHO *BRAZILIAN* Brazilian-Continental cuisine with sidewalk tables and a cozy interior.... *Tel 212/274-0044. 73 E. Houston St., at Elizabeth St. N/R trains to Prince St. or F/V trains to 2nd Ave. Open daily 8am–11pm, Sat–Sun until midnight. AE, MC, V. $$*

**See Map 7 on p. 80, bullet 62.**

**Café Gitane (p. 78)** NOLITA *CAFE* Almost too cute, but saves itself with great cafe food and coffees. *Tel 212/334-9552. 242 Mott St. at Prince St. 6 train to Spring St. or N/R trains to Prince St. Open daily 9am–midnight. No credit cards. $*

**See Map 7 on p. 80, bullet 61.**

**Café Habana (p. 70)** NOLITA *LATINO* Trendy Cuban luncheonette feeding slender portions to a slim crowd.... *Tel 212/625-2001. 17 Prince St., at Elizabeth St. 6 train to Spring St. No reservations. Open daily 9am–midnight. AE, MC, V. $$*

**See Map 7 on p. 80, bullet 60.**

**Cafeteria (p. 73)** CHELSEA *AMERICAN* Updated diner fare plus some French bistro–influenced dishes in a once-hip spot. Fun if you don't mind a little attitude.... *Tel 212/414-1717. 119 7th Ave. 1/9 trains to 18th St. Open 24 hours. AE, MC, V. $$$*

**See Map 9 on p. 82, bullet 118.**

**Carmine's (p. 77)** MIDTOWN WEST & UPPER WEST SIDE *ITALIAN* Hearty southern Italian—a good Theater District choice. Go for family-style dining—the portions are immense.... *Tel 212/221-3800. www.carminesnyc.com. 200 W. 44th St. 1/2/3/7/9/N/Q/R/W trains to 42nd St./Times Square; tel 212/362–2200. 2450 Broadway, between 90th and 91st sts. 1/9 trains to 86th St. Reservations recommended before 6pm, after 6pm only for 6 or more. Open Tues–Sat 11:30am–midnight, Sun–Mon 11:30am–11pm. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. $$*

**See Map 9 on p. 82, bullet 109.**
**See Map 10 on p. 84, bullet 168.**

**Carnegie Deli (p. 76)** MIDTOWN WEST *DELICATESSEN* Best borscht, in addition to sublime corned beef and pastrami, served in comically oversized portions.... *Tel 212/757-2245. www.carnegiedeli.com. 854 7th Ave., at 55th St. N/R/Q/W trains to 57th St. Open daily 6:30am–4am. No credit cards. $$*

**See Map 9 on p. 82, bullet 105.**

**Casa la Femme (p. 71)** SOHO *EGYPTIAN* Excellent Egyptian food in swank, romantic, chic Sheik space.... *Tel 212/505-0005. 150 Wooster St. C/E trains to Spring St. Open Sun–Tues 5pm–midnight, Wed–Sat 5pm–3am. AE, MC, V. $$$.*

**See Map 7 on p. 80, bullet 56.**

**Chiam (p. 67)** MIDTOWN EAST *CHINESE* Posh streamlined Chinese.... *Tel 212/371-2323. 160 E. 48th St. 6 train to 51st St.*

*Reservations required. Open daily 11:30am–11:30pm. AE, DISC, MC, V. $$–$$$*

**See Map 9 on p. 82, bullet 147.**

**China Grill** **(p. 67)** MIDTOWN WEST *CHINESE* Top-notch Chinese fusion with Midtown class.... *Tel 212/333-7788. 60 W. 53rd St. B/D/F/V trains to Rockefeller Center. Lunch Mon–Fri 11:45am–5pm, dinner Mon–Wed 5:30–11pm, Thurs–Sat 5:30pm–midnight, Sun 5–10:30pm. AE, DC, MC, V. $$$*

**See Map 9 on p. 82, bullet 153.**

**Citarella** **(p. 59)** MIDTOWN WEST *SEAFOOD* New seafood temple near Rockefeller Center.... *Tel 212/332-1515. www.citarella.com 1240 6th Ave., at 49th St. B/D/F/V trains to Rockefeller Center. Open Mon–Fri 11:30am–2:15pm and 5:30pm–midnight (no lunch on Sat). AE, MC, V. $$$$*

**See Map 9 on p. 82, bullet 148.**

**Cornelia Street Cafe** **(p. 59)** WEST VILLAGE *CONTINENTAL* Laid-back in the Village; well-prepared Continental specialties and a convivial bar.... *Tel 212/989-9319. 29 Cornelia St. A/C/E/F/V trains to W. 4th St. Open Mon–Thurs 10am–1am, until 2am Sat–Sun. AE, DISC, MC, V. $$*

**See Map 8 on p. 81, bullet 93.**

**Corner Bistro** **(p. 72)** WEST VILLAGE *AMERICAN* Big lines form for New York's best burger..... *Tel 212/242-9502. www.corner bistro.citysearch.com. 331 W. 4th St. 1/2/3/9/A/C/E/L trains to 14th St. Open Mon–Sat 11:30am–4am, opens noon on Sun. No credit cards. $*

**See Map 8 on p. 81, bullet 73.**

**Craft** **(p. 62)** FLATIRON *NEW AMERICAN* Simple, elegant preparation of ultra-fresh ingredients.... *Tel 212/780-0880. www.craft restaurant.com. 43 E. 19th St., between Broadway and Park Ave. S. 4/5/6/L/N/Q/R/W trains to 14th St./Union Sq. Reservations recommended. Open Tues–Sun 5:30–10pm. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. $$$*

**See Map 9 on p. 82, bullet 123.**

**Crif Dog** **(p. 74)** EAST VILLAGE *AMERICAN* Every variety of hot dog—and night owl—that you can imagine.... *Tel 212/614-2728. www.crifdogs.com. 113 St. Marks Place, between 1st Ave. and Ave. A. 6 train to Astor Place. Open daily noon–midnight, until 2am Thurs, until 4am Fri–Sat. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. $*

**See Map 7 on p. 80, bullet 13.**

**Da Umberto** **(p. 65)** CHELSEA *ITALIAN* Now that's Italian, albeit with clubby interior and clientele.... *Tel 212/989-0303. 107 W. 17th St. 1/9 trains to 18th St. Reservations required. Open Mon–Fri noon–3pm, 5:30–11pm, Sat 5:30–11pm. AE. $$$–$$$$*

**See Map 9 on p. 82, bullet 126.**

**Daniel** (p. 63) UPPER EAST SIDE *FRENCH* Pure heaven on every level, and worth every franc.... *Tel 212/288-0033. www.daniel nyc.com. 60 E. 65th St., between Madison and Park aves. 6 train to 68th St. Jacket and reservations required. Mon–Sat 5:45–11pm. AE, MC, V. $$$$*

**See Map 6 on p. 52, bullet 180.**

**Danube** (p. 57) TRIBECA *AUSTRIAN* Master chef David Bouley's extraordinary take on Austrian cuisine.... *Tel 212/791-3771. 30 Hudson St. 1/2/3/9 trains to Chambers St. Jacket and reservations required. Open Mon–Sat 5:30–11:30pm. AE, DC, MC, V. $$$$*

**See Map 6 on p. 52, bullet 5.**

**Dawat** (p. 69) MIDTOWN EAST *INDIAN* Northern Indian cuisine, upscale atmosphere.... *Tel 212/355-7555. 210 E. 58th St. 4/5/6 trains to 59th St. or N/R/W trains to Lexington Ave. Open Mon–Sat 11:30am–3pm, Sun–Thurs 5:30–11pm, Fri–Sat 5:30–11:30pm. AE, DC, MC, V. $$$*

**See Map 9 on p. 82, bullet 162.**

**District** (p. 77) MIDTOWN WEST *NEW AMERICAN* Theater District dazzler lays on the drama, and scores a hit.... *Tel 212/485-2999. www.district-musehotel.com. 130 W. 46th St. Q/W train to 49th St. Reservations required. Open daily 6:30am–10:30pm, 11:30am–2:30pm, 6:30–11pm. AE, MC, V. $$$*

**See Map 9 on p. 82, bullet 146.**

**Dos Caminos** (p. 71) GRAMERCY & SOHO *MEXICAN* Delicious Mexican with custom-made guacamole and endless varieties of tequila.... *Tel 212-294-1000. 373 Park Ave. S. between 26th and 27th sts. 6 train to 28th St. SoHo Tel 212/277-4300. 475 Broadway. N/R trains to Prince St. Reservations recommended. Open Sun 11:30am–11pm, Tues–Thurs 11:30am–midnight, Fri–Sat 11:30am–1am. AE, DISC, MC, V. $$$*

**See Map 9 on p. 82, bullet 134.**

**Empire Diner** (p. 73) CHELSEA *AMERICAN* An Art Deco standby that never closes and never fails.... *Tel 212/243-2736. 210 10th Ave., at 22nd St. C/E trains to 23rd St. No reservations. Open 24 hours. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. $$*

**See Map 9 on p. 82, bullet 117.**

**Ess-A-Bagel** (p. 79) GRAMERCY & MIDTOWN EAST *BAGELS* Jumbo-size bagels make a perfect bed for lox and cream cheese.... *Tel 212/980-1010. 831 3rd Ave., between 50th and 51st sts. 6 train to 51st St. Also Gramercy location, Tel 212/260-2252. 359 1st Ave., at 21st St. 6 train to 23rd St. Open daily 6am–9pm, until 5pm Sat–Sun. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. $*

**See Map 9 on p. 82, bullets 133, 157.**

**Fanelli's Cafe** (p. 59) SOHO *AMERICAN* Clubby, pubby pastas, steaks, and burgers, and nice Sunday morning reading-the-newspaper atmosphere.... *Tel 212/226-9412. 94 Prince St. N/R trains to Prince St. Open daily 10:30am–2am, until 4am Thurs–Sat. AE, MC, V. $*

**See Map 7 on p. 80, bullet 58.**

**Felidia** (p. 66) MIDTOWN EAST *ITALIAN* Unparalleled Italian, so good and so charming no one puts on airs—successfully.... *Tel 212/758-1479. 243 E. 58th St. 4/5/6 trains to 59th St. or N/R/W trains to Lexington Ave. Jacket suggested. Reservations required. Open Mon–Fri noon–2:30pm, Mon–Thurs 5–10:45pm, Fri–Sat 5–11pm. MC, V. $$$$*

**See Map 9 on p. 82, bullet 163.**

**FireBird** (p. 77) MIDTOWN WEST *RUSSIAN* Fairy-tale spot with fabulous blinis and a knockout selection of vodkas (and champagnes).... *Tel 212/586-0244. 365 W. 46th St. 1/2/3/9 or N/Q/R/W trains to Times Square or A/C/E train to 42nd St. Reservations accepted. Open Tues–Sat 11:45am–2:30pm, Tues–Thurs 5pm–1am, Fri–Sat 5pm–1:30am. AE, DC, MC, V. $$$$*

**See Map 9 on p. 82, bullet 112.**

**Florent** (p. 73) MEAT-PACKING DISTRICT *FRENCH* A hip after-hours haunt with reasonable prices despite the very hip 'hood.... *Tel 212/989-5779. 69 Gansevoort St. A/C/E and L trains to 14th St. Reservations recommended for dinner. Open Mon–Thurs 9am–5am, Fri–Sun 24 hours. No credit cards. $$*

**See Map 8 on p. 81, bullet 71.**

**The Four Seasons** (p. 54, 55, 74) MIDTOWN EAST *CONTINENTAL* About as elegant as New York gets, with great attention to both diners and food.... *Tel 212/754-9495. 99 E. 52nd St. 6 train to 51st St. Jacket and reservations required. Mon–Fri noon–2:30pm, 5–9:30pm, Sat 5–11:30pm. MC, V. $$$$*

**See Map 9 on p. 82, bullet 156.**

**Golden Unicorn** (p. 68) CHINATOWN *CHINESE* Hong Kong–style Chinese in multi-floored banquet rooms, never better tasting than at the daily dim sum brunch.... *Tel 212/941-0911. 18 E. Broadway at Catherine St. J/M/N/Q/R/W/Z/6 trains to Canal St. Open daily 9am–10pm, dim sum until 4pm. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. $$*

**See Map 7 on p. 80, bullet 36.**

**Gotham Bar and Grill** (p. 63) WEST VILLAGE *NEW AMERICAN* Swank setting, inventive American cuisine.... *Tel 212/620-4020. 12 E. 12th St. L/N/Q/R/W/4/5/6 trains to Union Square. Reservations recommended, jackets suggested. Open Mon–Fri noon–2:15pm and 5:30–10pm, Fri until 11pm, Sat 5–11pm, Sun 5–10pm. AE, DC, MC, V. $$$$*

**See Map 8 on p. 81, bullet 79.**

**Gramercy Tavern (p. 62)** GRAMERCY *NEW AMERICAN* Impeccable New American cuisine courtesy of Danny Meyer (co-owner) and Tom Colicchio (co-owner and chef) for $65 prix fixe, or a la carte in the less formal Tavern Room (the bar).... *Tel 212/477-0777. 42 E. 20th St. 6 train to 23rd St. Reservations and jacket required. Open Mon–Sat noon–11pm (Fri–Sat until midnight), Sun 5–11pm. AE, DC, MC, V. $$$$*

**See Map 9 on p. 82, bullet 125.**

**Grand Sichuan International (p. 67)** CHELSEA *CHINESE* Plain decor, but serves jaw-droppingly good food, superior even to Chinatown.... *Tel 212/620-5200. 229 9th Ave. at 24th St. C/E trains to 23rd St. Reservations accepted for parties of 3 or more. Open daily 11:30am–11pm. AE, DC, MC, V. $$*

**See Map 9 on p. 82, bullet 116.**

**Gus' Place (p. 71)** WEST VILLAGE *GREEK* Greek classics bring in the neighboring Villagers.... *Tel 212/645-8511. 149 Waverly Place, just west of 6th Ave. 1/9 trains to Christopher St. Reservations recommended. Open Mon–Fri noon–11pm, until 11:30pm Fri, Sat 5–11:30pm, Sun 10:30am–11pm, closed every day from 4–5pm. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. $$*

**See Map 8 on p. 81, bullet 80.**

**H&H Bagels (p. 78)** UPPER WEST SIDE *BAGELS* Still a legend, even at a buck a bagel. Takeout only.... *Tel 212/595-8003. 2239 Broadway at 80th St. 1/9 trains to 79th St. No credit cards. $*

**See Map 10 on p. 84, bullet 172.**

**Herban Kitchen (p. 60)** SOHO *ORGANIC AMERICAN* Elegant organic fare on the edge of SoHo.... *Tel 212/627-2257. www.herbankitchen.com. 290 Hudson St. C/E trains to Spring St. Open Mon–Fri 11am–4pm, Mon–Sat 5–11pm. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. $$*

**See Map 8 on p. 81, bullet 99.**

**The Hourglass Tavern (p. 77)** MIDTOWN WEST *ITALIAN* The eclectic menu matches the ramshackle layout of this casual Theater District fave.... *Tel 212/265-2060. 373 West 46th St. A/C/E trains to 42nd St. Open Mon–Sat 4:30–11:30pm, lunch Wed–Fri 11:30am–3pm. AE, DISC, MC, V $$–$$$*

**See Map 9 on p. 82, bullet 113.**

**Il Bagatto (p. 65)** LOWER EAST SIDE *ITALIAN* Friendly Downtown Italian for a hip crowd.... *Tel 212/228-0977. 192 E. 2nd St., between aves. A and B. F/V trains to 2nd Ave. Reservations accepted. Open Tues–Thurs 6:30–11:30pm, Fri–Sat till 12:30am, Sun 6–10:45pm. No credit cards. $$*

**See Map 7 on p. 80, bullet 20.**

**Il Mulino (p. 66)** WEST VILLAGE *ITALIAN* Top-flight Italian, via Abruzzi.... *Tel 212/673-3783. 86 W. 3rd St. A/C/E/F/V trains to*

*W. 4th St. Jacket and reservations required. Open Mon–Fri noon–2:30pm, Mon–Sat 5–11pm, closed in July. AE, MC, V. $$$$*

**See Map 7 on p. 80, bullet 66.**

**Il Palazzo** **(p. 64)** LITTLE ITALY *ITALIAN* Well-done Italian-American standards in the last surviving stretch of Little Italy.... *Tel 212/343-7000. 151 Mulberry St. 6 train to Spring St. Reservations not accepted. Sun–Thurs noon–11pm, until midnight Fri–Sat. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. $$*

**See Map 7 on p. 80, bullet 43.**

**Indochine** **(p. 57, 69)** NOHO *ASIAN FUSION* Perennially posh Colonial-meets-downtown-chic spot with appetizing French/Vietnamese fusion fare.... *Tel 212/505-5111. 430 Lafayette St. 6 train to Astor Place. Reservations required. Sun–Thurs 5:30pm–midnight, Fri–Sat until 12:30am. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. $$–$$$*

**See Map 7 on p. 80, bullet 67.**

**'Inoteca** **(p. 65)** LOWER EAST SIDE *ITALIAN* Panini and a nice wine selection attract a festive crowd.... *Tel 212/614-0473. 98 Rivington St., at Ludlow St. F train to Delancey St. or J/M/Z trains to Essex St. Open daily noon–3am. MC, V. $$*

**See Map 7 on p. 80, bullet 30.**

**Jean Georges** **(p. 64)** MIDTOWN WEST *FRENCH* Wildly inventive chef/restaurateur Jean-Georges Vongerichten wows even his fellow chefs. This subtly elegant restaurant is considered by many to be New York's finest.... *Tel 212/299-3900. Trump International Hotel, 1 Central Park W. at 60th St. A/B/C/D or 1/9 train to Columbus Circle. Jacket and reservations required. Dining room open Mon–Fri noon–3pm and 5:30–11pm, Sat 5:30–11:30pm. AE, DC, MC, V. $$$$*

**See Map 9 on p. 82, bullet 102.**

**Jeollado** **(p. 70)** EAST VILLAGE *JAPANESE* Hip, fun sushi with especially good house rolls in a big, casual room.... *Tel 212/260-7696. 116 E. 4th St. F/V trains to 2nd Ave. Open daily 5pm–midnight. No credit cards. $$*

**See Map 7 on p. 80, bullet 17.**

**Jezebel** **(p. 73)** MIDTOWN WEST *SOUL FOOD* Pork chops and collard greens as if at the Ritz.... *Tel 212/582-1045. 630 9th Ave. A/C/E trains to 42nd St. Reservations accepted. Open Tues–Thurs 5:30–10:30pm, Fri–Sat 5:30–11:30pm, Sunday 4–7pm, Sunday brunch noon–3pm. AE. $$$*

**See Map 9 on p. 82, bullet 115.**

**Joe's Shanghai** **(p. 68)** CHINATOWN *CHINESE* All the atmosphere of a parking garage, but oh what sublime soup dumplings.... *Tel 212/233-8888. 9 Pell St., between Bowery and Mott St. J/M/N/Q/R/W/Z/6 trains to Canal St. Reservations recommended for 10 or more. Open daily 11am–11pm. No credit cards. $*

**See Map 7 on p. 80, bullet 38.**

**John's Pizzeria (p. 66)** WEST VILLAGE *ITALIAN* There's nothing like John's dough for making a crispy-crusted pizza pie.... *Tel 212/243-1680. www.johnsofbleeckerstreet.com. 278 Bleecker St. 1/9 trains to Christopher St. Open daily 11:30am–11:30pm, until 1am Fri–Sat. No credit cards. $*

**See Map 8 on p. 81, bullet 91.**

**Josie's (p. 60)** UPPER WEST SIDE & MIDTOWN EAST *ORGANIC* Healthy doesn't come much tastier than this entirely dairy-free local landmark.... *Tel 212/769-1212. 300 Amsterdam Ave., at 74th St. 1/2/3/9 trains to 72nd St.; tel 212/490-1558. 565 3rd Ave., at 37th St. 6 train to 33rd St. Open Mon 5:30–11pm, Tues–Thurs 5:30pm–midnight, Fri–Sat 5pm–midnight, Sun 5–11pm. AE, DC, MC, V. $$*

**See Map 9 on p. 82, bullet 139.**
**See Map 10 on p. 84, bullet 174.**

**JUdson Grill (p. 62)** MIDTOWN WEST *NEW AMERICAN* This impress-the-client favorite turns out elegant versions of your old favorites—try the roast chicken with Swiss Chard—in a dramatic oversized dining room.... *Tel 212/582-5252. 152 W. 52nd St. B/D/F/V trains to 47–50 sts./Rockefeller Center, 1/9 trains to 50th St. Open Mon–Fri noon–2:30pm, 5:30–10:30pm, Sat 5–11:30pm. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. $$$$*

**See Map 9 on p. 82, bullet 151.**

**Kang Suh (p. 74)** MIDTOWN EAST *KOREAN* Koreatown duplex with barbecue and tasty kimchees available around the clock.... *Tel 212/564-6845. 1250 Broadway at 32nd St. B/D/F/N/Q/R/V/W trains to 34th St. Open 24 hours. AE, MC, V. $*

**See Map 9 on p. 82, bullet 138.**

**Katz's Deli (p. 95)** LOWER EAST SIDE *DELICATESSEN* Where Harry met Sally; for counterculture, this is the classic.... *Tel 212/254-2246. 205 E. Houston St. at Ludlow St. F/V trains to 2nd Ave. No reservations. Open daily 8am–10pm (until 11pm Wed–Thurs, 2:30am Fri–Sat). AE, MC, V. $*

**See Map 7 on p. 80, bullet 24.**

**Keen's Steakhouse (p. 58)** MIDTOWN WEST *STEAKHOUSE* Old-style New York, old recipes, mutton chops, and 90,000 clay pipes in the ceiling.... *Tel 212/947-3636. www.keenssteakhouse.com. 72 W. 36th St. A/C/E or 1/2/3/9 trains to 34th St. Open Mon–Fri 11:45am–10pm, Sat 5–10pm, Sun 4–8pm. AE, MC, V. $$$$*

**See Map 9 on p. 82, bullet 141.**

**Kin Khao (p. 69)** SOHO *THAI* Haute Thai for those who appreciate funky elegance; don't miss the Asian-infused cocktails.... *Tel 212/966-3939. 171 Spring St. C/E trains to Spring St. Open Sun–Thurs 5:30–11pm, until midnight Fri–Sat. $$*

**See Map 7 on p. 80, bullet 53.**

**Kossar's Bialys (p. 79)** LOWER EAST SIDE *BAGELS* Bialys (bagelesque flatbreads) and bagels baked fresh 24-6.... *Tel 212/473-4810. www.kossarsbialys.com. 367 Grand St. F train to Delancey St. or J/M/Z trains to Essex St. Open 24 hours, except closed Fri sunset to Sat sunset and during Jewish holidays. No credit cards. $*

**See Map 7 on p. 80, bullet 33.**

**Lattanzi (p. 77)** MIDTOWN WEST *ITALIAN* Intriguing Italian and Roman-Jewish food, a good pre-theatre pick.... *Tel 212/315-0980. www.cityguidemagazine.com/newyorkcity/lattanzi. 361 W. 46th St. A/C/E trains to 42nd St. Open Mon–Fri noon–2:30pm, 5pm–midnight, Sat 4pm–midnight. AE. $$$*

**See Map 9 on p. 82, bullet 111.**

**Layla (p. 71)** TRIBECA *MOROCCAN* Scintillating, festive nouvelle North African restaurant.... *Tel 212/431-0700. 211 W. Broadway. 1/9 trains to Franklin St. Open Mon–Sat 5:30–10:30pm, until 11:30pm Fri–Sat. AE, DC, MC, V. $$$*

**See Map 7 on p. 80, bullet 46.**

**Le Bernardin (p. 58)** MIDTOWN WEST *SEAFOOD* Sublime seafood, but just try to fish for a weekend reservation.... *Tel 212/489-1515. 155 W. 51st St., between 6th and 7th aves. 1/9 trains to 50th St. Jacket and reservations required. Open Mon–Thurs noon–2:30pm and 5:30–10:30pm, Fri noon–2:30pm and 5:30–11pm, Sat 5:30–11pm. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. $$$$*

**See Map 9 on p. 82, bullet 107.**

**Le Cirque 2000 (p. 63)** MIDTOWN EAST *FRENCH* Top-notch and over-the-top, but a definitive dining experience, thanks to owner Sirio Maccione's flair.... *Tel 212/303-7788. www.lecirque.com. New York Palace Hotel, 455 Madison Ave. at 50th St. 6 train to 51st St. Jacket and tie and reservations required. Open Mon–Sat 11:45am–2:30pm and 5:30–11pm, Sun 5:30–10:30pm. AE, DC, MC, V. $$$$*

**See Map 9 on p. 82, bullet 149.**

**Le Colonial (p. 69)** MIDTOWN EAST *VIETNAMESE* Ultra-chic, swooningly romantic Asian.... *Tel 212/752-0808. 149 E. 57th St. 4/5/6 trains to 59th St. or N/R/W trains to Lexington Ave. Reservations required. Open Mon–Fri noon–2:30pm, Sun–Mon 5:30–11pm, Tues–Thurs 5:30–11:30pm, Fri–Sat 5:30pm–midnight. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. $$$*

**See Map 9 on p. 82, bullet 161.**

**Le Jardin Bistro (p. 75)** SOHO *FRENCH* Standard French fare—only really worth a visit in warm weather for the exquisite garden.... *Tel 212/343-9599. 25 Cleveland Place. 6 train to Spring St. Open daily noon–3pm, 6–10:30pm, later on the weekends. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. $$$*

**See Map 7 on p. 80, bullet 48.**

**Le Pescadou** (p. 77) SOHO *FRENCH* Sweet setting, pricey but succulent French seafood.... *Tel 212/924-3434. 18 King St. 1/9 trains to Houston St. Open Mon–Thurs noon–4pm, 6–11:30pm, Fri noon–4pm, Sun noon–4pm, 5:30–11pm. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. $$$*

**See Map 8 on p. 81, bullet 100.**

**Lin's Dumpling House** (p. 68) CHINATOWN *CHINESE* Great house specials in addition to fresh noodles and the tasty titular dumplings.... *Tel 212/577-2777. 25 Pell St. J/M/N/Q/R/W/Z/6 trains to Canal St. Open daily 11am–10:30pm. AE, MC, V. $*

**See Map 7 on p. 80, bullet 42.**

**Lombardi's** (p. 66) NOLITA *ITALIAN* Every flavorful pie here is seasoned with authenticity.... *Tel 212/941-7994. 32 Spring St. 6 train to Spring St. Reservations accepted for parties of 6 or more. Open daily 11:30am–11pm, Fri–Sat until midnight, Sun until 10pm. No credit cards. $*

**See Map 7 on p. 80, bullet 49.**

**Lupa** (p. 65) WEST VILLAGE *ITALIAN* Star chef Mario Batali's 21st-century take on classic Roman trattoria food, with prices that seem positively retro.... *Tel 212/982-5089. 170 Thompson St., between Houston and Bleecker sts. 1/9 trains to Houston St. Reservations recommended. Open daily noon–2:45pm and 5:30–11:30pm. AE, DC, MC, V. $$*

**See Map 7 on p. 80, bullet 64.**

**Mama's Food Shop** (p. 72) EAST & WEST VILLAGE *AMERICAN/SOUTHERN* Home-cooking that locals love, with a long list of veggie-friendly sides.... *Tel 212/777-4425. 200 East 3rd St. at Ave. B. F/V trains to 2nd Ave. Tel 212/505-8123. 222 Sullivan St., above Bleecker St. A/C/E/F/V trains to W. 4th St. Open Mon–Sat 11am–10:30pm. No credit cards. $*

**See Map 7 on p. 80, bullet 29.**

**March** (p. 57) MIDTOWN EAST *NEW AMERICAN* Innovative cuisine by master chef Wayne Nish, in a romantic East Side town house.... *Tel 212/754–6272. 405 E. 58th St. N/R/W trains to Lexington Ave. or 4/5/6 trains to 59th St. Open daily 5:30–10:45pm. AE, MC, V. $$$$*

**See Map 9 on p. 82, bullet 165.**

**Mary Ann's** (p. 71) CITYWIDE *MEXICAN* Hearty Mexican in 4 locations.... *Tel 212/633-0877. maryannsmexicanny.citysearch.com. 116 8th Ave. A/C/E/L trains to 14th St.; tel 212/249-6165. 1503 2nd Ave., 6 train to 77th St. Tel 212/877-0132. 2452 Broadway. 1/9 trains to 86th St. Tel 212/475–5939. 86 2nd Ave. F/V trains to 2nd Ave. Open Sun–Thurs noon–4pm and 5–11pm, until midnight Fri–Sat. MC, V. $–$$*

**See Map 6 on p. 52, bullet 181.**
**See Map 7 on p. 80, bullet 16.**
**See Map 9 on p. 82, bullet 119.**
**See Map 10 on p. 84, bullet 167.**

**Max** **(p. 65)** EAST VILLAGE *ITALIAN* Simple, reasonable renditions of traditional Italian cooking.... *Tel 212/539-0111. 51 Ave. B. F/V trains to 2nd Ave. Open daily 5pm–midnight. No credit cards. $$*

**See Map 7 on p. 80, bullet 18.**

**Mercer Kitchen** **(p. 62)** SOHO *FRENCH/NEW AMERICAN* An extension of the Mercer Hotel, serving elegant American food with an emphasis on locally grown ingredients.... *Tel 212/966-5454. 99 Prince St. at Mercer St. N/R trains to Prince St. Open Mon–Fri 7am–3pm, Mon–Thurs 5:30pm–midnight, Fri–Sat 6pm–1am, Sun 5:30–11pm, brunch Sat–Sun noon–4pm. AE, DC, MC, V. $$$$*

**See Map 7 on p. 80, bullet 57.**

**Miracle Grill** **(p. 76)** EAST & WEST VILLAGE *SOUTHWESTERN* Fine Southwestern food and an amazing value, especially in summer when you can sit in the garden.... *Tel 212/254-2353. 112 1st Ave. 6 train to Astor Place or F/V trains to 2nd Ave. Tel 212/924-1900. 415 Bleecker St. 1/2/3/9 trains to 14th St. Open Mon–Thurs 5:30–11:30pm, Fri–Sat 5pm–midnight, Sun 11:30am–3pm and 5–11pm. AE, MC, V. $$*

**See Map 7 on p. 80, bullet 14.**
**See Map 8 on p. 81, bullet 77.**

**Montrachet** **(p. 57)** TRIBECA *FRENCH* A downtown classic, with severe spotlit decor and impeccable culinary standards.... *Tel 212/219-2777. www.montrachet.net. 239 W. Broadway. 1/9 trains to Franklin St. Reservations required. Open Mon–Sat 5:30–10:30pm. AE, DC, MC, V. $$$$*

**See Map 7 on p. 80, bullet 45.**

**Moustache** **(p. 72)** WEST VILLAGE *MIDDLE EASTERN* Delicious pitas and hummus; pronounced "moose-tash".... *Tel 212/228-2022. 90 Bedford (at Barrow St). 1/9 to Christopher St. No reservations. Open daily noon–11pm. No credit cards. $*

**See Map 8 on p. 81, bullet 88.**

**New York Noodletown** **(p. 68)** CHINATOWN *CHINESE* Outstand-ing Hong Kong–style cuisine in Chinatown.... *Tel 212/349-0923. 28½ Bowery. J/M/N/Q/R/W/Z/6 trains to Canal St. Reservations accepted. Open daily 9am–4am. No credit cards. $*

**See Map 7 on p. 80, bullet 37.**

**Next Door Nobu** **(p. 70)** TRIBECA *JAPANESE* Little sister to hotspot Nobu. The menu is slightly shorter, but you can actually get a table!... *Tel 212/334-4445. www.myriadrestaurantgroup.com. 105 Hudson St. 1/9 trains to Franklin St. Reservations for parties of 6 or more. Open Mon–Thurs 5:45pm–midnight, until 1am Fri–Sat, until 11pm on Sun. AE, DC, MC, V. $$$$*

**See Map 6 on p. 52, bullet 1.**

**9th Street Market** **(p. 61)** EAST VILLAGE *AMERICAN* Serving up the best brunch in the neighborhood, this local gem also wins

justified praise for its country-inspired dinner menu.... *Tel 212/473-0242. 162* 337 *East 9th St., between First and Second aves. 6 train to Astor Pl., L train to First Ave, or N/R trains to 8th St. Open for brunch Thurs–Sun 10am–3:30pm, for dinner Mon–Sun 5pm–11. No credit cards. $–$$*

**See Map 7 on p. 80, bullet 11.**

**Nobu** **(p. 70)** TRIBECA *JAPANESE* Gastronomic sushi temple where all the major celebs and power players worship.... *Tel 212/219-0500. www.myriadrestaurantgroup.com. 105 Hudson St. 1/9 trains to Franklin St. Reservations required. Open Mon–Fri 11:45am–2:15pm and 5:45–10:15pm, Sat–Sun 5:45–10:15pm. AE, DC, MC, V. $$$$*

**See Map 6 on p. 52, bullet 1.**

**Oceana** **(p. 59)** MIDTOWN EAST *SEAFOOD* Glorious re-creation of an Art Deco ocean liner with well-nigh perfect seafood.... *Tel 212/759-5941. www.oceanarestaurant.com. 55 E. 54th St. 6 train to 51st St. Jacket and reservations required. Open Mon–Fri noon–2:30pm, 5:30–10:30pm, Sat 5:30–10:30pm. AE, DISC, MC, V. $$$$*

**See Map 9 on p. 82, bullet 154.**

**Odeon** **(p. 57)** TRIBECA *FRENCH/NEW AMERICAN* By now an institution in chic; delicious American cuisine.... *Tel 212/233-0507. 145 W. Broadway at Thomas St. 1/9 trains to Franklin St. Reservations recommended. Open Mon–Fri noon–2am, Sat–Sun 11:30am–2am. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. $$$*

**See Map 6 on p. 52, bullet 4.**

**One if by Land, Two if by Sea** **(p. 75)** WEST VILLAGE *CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN* Continental cuisine served with many flourishes in a historic Greenwich Village carriage house.... *Tel 212/255-8649. 17 Barrow St. A/C/E/F/V trains to W. 4th St. Jacket and tie advised; reservations required. Open daily 5:30–11pm. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. $$$$*

**See Map 8 on p. 81, bullet 84.**

**Orso** **(p. 76)** MIDTOWN WEST *ITALIAN* Very Tuscan, very good; an oasis in the Theater District.... *Tel 212/489-7212. 322 W. 46th St. A/C/E trains to 42nd St. Reservations required. Open daily noon–11:45pm, from 11:30am on Wed, Sat, and Sun. MC, V. $$$*

**See Map 9 on p. 82, bullet 110.**

**Osteria del Circo** **(p. 66)** MIDTOWN WEST *ITALIAN* Three-ring circus act, with decor, Italian food, and extras all competing for attention.... *Tel 212/265-3636. 120 W. 55th St. B/D/E trains to 7th Ave. Reservations required. Open Mon–Fri 11:30am–2:30pm, Mon–Sat 5:30–11:30pm, Sun 5–10pm. AE, DC, MC, V. $$$*

**See Map 9 on p. 82, bullet 104.**

**Oyster Bar and Restaurant** **(p. 58)** MIDTOWN EAST *SEAFOOD* Oysters from everywhere ordered from a chalkboard; basement

train-station setting; whopping wine list.... *Tel 212/490-6650. Grand Central Terminal, Lower Level. 4/5/6 or 7 trains to Grand Central. Reservations recommended. Open Mon–Fri 11:30am–9:30pm, Sat noon–9:30pm. AE, DC, MC, V. $$$*

**See Map 9 on p. 82, bullet 143.**

**Paladar** **(p. 71)** LOWER EAST SIDE *LATINO* *Paladar* is Spanish for *palate*; expect to have yours titillated with tangy seafood and assorted Latino treats.... *Tel 212/473-3535. 161 Ludlow St., between Houston and Stanton sts. F/V trains to 2nd Ave. Open Sun–Wed 5–11:30pm, Thurs–Sat 5pm–2am. No credit cards. $$.*

**See Map 7 on p. 80, bullet 26.**

**The Palm** **(p. 57)** MIDTOWN EAST *STEAKHOUSE* Rude waitstaff, sawdust, caricatures, huge slabs of perfectly charred steak: the quintessential steakhouse.... *Tel 212/687-2953. www.thepalm.com. 837 2nd Ave. 4/5/6 or S trains to Grand Central. Reservations recommended. Open Mon–Fri noon–11:30pm, Sat 5–11:30pm. AE, DC, MC, V. $$$$*

**See Map 9 on p. 82, bullet 144.**

**Pastis** **(p. 78)** MEAT-PACKING DISTRICT *FRENCH* Great people-watching bistro on a busy block.... *Tel 212/929-4844. 9 9th Ave. at Little W. 12th St. A/C/E/L trains to 14th St./8th Ave. Reservations recommended. Open 9am–5pm and 6pm–1am, until 3am Fri–Sat, closed Mon. AE, MC, V. $$*

**See Map 8 on p. 81, bullet 69.**

**Patio Dining** **(p. 65)** EAST VILLAGE *ITALIAN* Intimate space for inventive, homey Italian cooking.... *Tel 212/460-9171. 31 2nd Ave. F/V trains to 2nd Ave. Open Tues–Sat 6–11pm. AE, MC, V. $$*

**See Map 7 on p. 80, bullet 21.**

**Patria** **(p. 70)** UNION SQUARE *LATINO* Latin at its most chic.... *Tel 212/777–6211. 250 Park Ave. S. 4/5/6/L/N/Q/R/W or L trains to Union Square. Open Mon–Fri noon–2:30pm, Mon–Thurs 6–11pm, Fri–Sat 5:30pm–midnight, Sun 5:30–10:30pm. AE, MC, V. $$$$*

**See Map 9 on p. 82, bullet 124.**

**Patsy's Pizzeria** **(p. 66)** HARLEM *ITALIAN* Serving amazing pizza since 1932.... *Tel 212/534-9783. 2287 1st Ave., between 117th and 118th sts. 6 train to 116th St. No reservations. Open daily 11:30am–midnight, Fri until 1am, Sun until 11pm. No credit cards. $*

**Periyali** **(p. 71)** FLATIRON DISTRICT *GREEK* Unique and chic Greek.... *Tel 212/463-7890. 35 W. 20th St. F/V or N/R trains to 23rd St. Open Mon–Fri noon–3pm, 5:30–11pm, Sat 5:30–11pm. AE, MC, V. $$$*

**See Map 9 on p. 82, bullet 128.**

**Peter Luger** (p. 58) WILLIAMSBURG, BROOKLYN *STEAKHOUSE* The best steaks in town—over in Brooklyn.... *Tel 718/387-7400. 178 Broadway. J/M/Z trains to Marcy Ave. Reservations required. Open Mon–Thurs 11:45am–9:45pm, until 10:45pm Fri–Sat, Sun 12:45–9:45pm. No credit cards. $$$$*

**Petite Abeille** (p. 61) MEAT-PACKING DISTRICT *BELGIAN* We come for the waffles, but this bistro also has a full menu of salads, frites, omelettes, sausages, as well as steak, stews, and mussels for the lunch and dinner crowds.... *Tel 212/604-9350. 400 W. 14th St., at 9th Ave. A/C/E trains to 14th St./8th Ave. or L train to 8th Ave. Open daily 7:30am–11pm (Mon, Sun until 10pm), brunch served 9am–5pm Sat–Sun. Other locations in TriBeCa, the West Village, and Chelsea. Call for directions. AE, MC, V. $–$$*

**See Map 8 on p. 81, bullet 68.**

**Picholine** (p. 63) UPPER WEST SIDE *MEDITERRANEAN* An oasis in the otherwise-bland Upper West Side dining scene. The Mediterranean dishes are exceptional, but the true star is the cheese course.... *Tel 212/724-8585. 35 W. 64th St. 1/9 trains to 66th St–Lincoln Center. Reservations required, jackets recommended. Open Tues–Sat 11:45am–2pm, daily 5:15–11pm, until 11:45pm Thurs–Sat, Sun until 9pm. AE, DC, MC, V. $$$$*

**See Map 10 on p. 84, bullet 176.**

**Ping's Seafood** (p. 59) CHINATOWN *CHINESE* Exquisite seafood in Chinatown, pulled right from the tank.... *Tel 212/602-9988. 22 Mott St. J/M/N/Q/R/W/Z/6 trains to Canal St. Open daily 10am–midnight. AE, MC, V. $$$*

**See Map 7 on p. 80, bullet 39.**

**Pink Teacup** (p. 61, 73) WEST VILLAGE *SOUL FOOD* Little Village cafe that specializes in down-home cookin'.... *Tel 212/807-6755. 42 Grove St. 1/9 trains to Christopher St. Open daily 8am–midnight, until 1am Sat–Sun. No credit cards. $$*

**See Map 8 on p. 81, bullet 87.**

**Po** (p. 64) WEST VILLAGE *ITALIAN* Inventive Italian in a handsome but unpretentious Village dining room.... *Tel 212/645-2189. 31 Cornelia St. A/C/E/F/V trains to W. 4th St. Open for lunch Wed–Sun 11:30am–2:15pm, for dinner Tues–Thurs 5:30–11pm, Fri–Sat 5:30–11:30pm, and Sun 5–10pm. AE. $$$*

**See Map 8 on p. 81, bullet 92.**

**Prune** (p. 61) EAST VILLAGE *NEW AMERICAN* This eccentric, sweet New American bistro will make you feel right at home.... *Tel 212/677-6221. 154 E. 1st St., between 1st and 2nd aves. F/V trains to 2nd Ave. Open Mon–Thurs 6–11pm, Fri–Sat 6pm–midnight, Sun 5–10pm, weekend brunch 10am–3:30pm. AE, MC, V. $$$*

**See Map 7 on p. 80, bullet 22.**

**Rain (p. 69)** UPPER WEST & UPPER EAST SIDES *PAN-ASIAN* Supercool Asian on both sides of town.... *Tel 212/501-0776. 100 W. 82nd St., 1/9 trains to 79th St.; tel 212/223-3669. 1059 3rd Ave., 4/5/6 trains to 59th St. or N/R/W trains to Lexington Ave. Reservations recommended. Open daily noon–3pm, until 4 Sat–Sun, dinner 6pm–11, until midnight Fri–Sat, Sun until 10pm. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. $$*

**See Map 6 on p. 52, bullet 178.**
**See Map 10 on p. 84, bullet 171.**

**Rao's (p. 66)** HARLEM *ITALIAN* East Harlem legend for Neapolitan food.... *Tel 212/722-6709. www.raos.com. 455 E. 114th St. 6 train to 116th St. Must have reservations far in advance. Open Mon–Fri, 7pm seating only. No credit cards. $$$$*

**Republic (p. 59)** UNION SQUARE *PAN-ASIAN* Diners scarf down excellent udons (noodle broths) and sates.... *Tel 212/627–7172. 37 Union Square W. L/N/Q/R/W/4/5/6 trains to Union Square. Open daily 11:30am–10pm, until 11:30pm Thurs–Sat. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. $*

**See Map 9 on p. 82, bullet 122.**

**Rinconcito Peruano Restaurant (p. 70)** CLINTON *PERUVIAN* This narrow storefront restaurant is a real find, serving first-rate Peruvian at cut-rate prices.... *Tel 212/333-5685. 803 9th Ave. between 53rd and 54th sts. C/E trains to 50th St. Open daily noon–9pm. No credit cards. $.*

**See Map 9 on p. 82, bullet 106.**

**The River Cafe (p. 75)** BROOKLYN HEIGHTS, BROOKLYN *AMERICAN* Christmas lights on the Brooklyn side of the East River, stellar kitchen, companionable bar.... *Tel 718/522–5200. 1 Water St. A/C trains to High St. or 2/3 trains to Clark St. Open daily noon–3pm and 6–11pm. AE, DC, MC, V. $$$$*

**Rosa Mexicano (p. 71)** UPPER EAST SIDE *MEXICAN* Closest thing to genuine top-level Mexican food you'll find in New York, with guacamole prepared tableside.... *Tel 212/753-7407. 1063 1st Ave. 4/5/6 trains to 59th St. or N/R/W trains to Lexington Ave. Open daily 5–11:30pm. AE, DISC, MC, V. $$$*

**See Map 9 on p. 82, bullet 164.**

**71 Clinton Fresh Foods (p. 60)** LOWER EAST SIDE *NEW AMERICAN* Chef-of-the-moment Wylie Dufresne whips up creative and, yes, fresh dishes in a tiny space.... *Tel 212/614-6960. 71 Clinton St. J/M/Z train to Essex St. or F train to Delancey St. Reservations required. Open daily 6am–10:30pm, until 11:30pm Fri–Sat. AE, MC, V. $$$*

**See Map 7 on p. 80, bullet 27.**

**Second Avenue Deli (p. 76)** EAST VILLAGE *DELICATESSEN* Kosher stock, lox, and barrels of real New York pickles.... *Tel*

*212/677-0606. 156 2nd Ave. at E. 10th St. 6 train to Astor Place. Reservations recommended for large parties. Open daily 7am–midnight, until 2am Fri–Sat. AE, MC, V. $$*

**See Map 7 on p. 80, bullet 8.**

**Shun Lee Palace** **(p. 67)** MIDTOWN EAST *CHINESE* Where blue-bloods have cut their teeth on elegant Szechuan fare since the '70s.... *Tel 212/371-8844. 155 E. 55th St. 6 train to 51st St. or E/V trains to Lexington/3rd Ave. Reservations required. Open daily noon–11:30pm, until 11pm on Sun. AE, MC, V. $$$*

**See Map 9 on p. 82, bullet 160.**

**Smith & Wollensky** **(p. 58)** MIDTOWN EAST *STEAKHOUSE* Bankers go bonkers for the superlative dry-aged rib-eyes at this marvelous upscale steakhouse.... *Tel 212/753-1530. 797 3rd Ave. 6 train to 51st St. or E/V trains to Lexington/3rd Ave. Reservations required. Open daily 11:45am–midnight. AE, DISC, MC, V. $$$$*

**See Map 9 on p. 82, bullet 159.**

**Spring Street Natural** **(p. 60)** SOHO *HEALTH FOOD* Organic meals, not limited to veggies (fish and poultry make the cut as well).... *Tel 212/966-0290. 62 Spring St. 6 train to Spring St. Open daily 11:30am–11:30pm, Fri–Sat until 12:30am. AE, DC, MC, V. $$*

**See Map 7 on p. 80, bullet 51.**

**Sylvia's** **(p. 73)** HARLEM *SOUL FOOD* The Harlem soul food standard.... *Tel 212/996-0660. 328 Lenox Ave., between 126th and 127th sts. 2/3 trains to 125th St. Reservations accepted for 10 or more. Open Mon–Sat 7:30am–10:30pm, Sun brunch 12:30–7pm. AE, DISC, MC, V. $$*

**T Salon & Emporium** **(p. 78)** GRAMERCY *TEA SHOP* Delectable finger sandwiches, intensely flavored global selection of teas, and tea bric-a-brac on sale in a cozy cottage-like atmosphere.... *Tel 212/358-0506. 11 E. 20th St. 6 train to 23rd St. Open daily 10am–8pm. AE, MC, V. $*

**See Map 9 on p. 82, bullet 127.**

**Tai Hong Lau** **(p. 68)** CHINATOWN *CHINESE* Dandy Chinatown dim sum.... *Tel 212/219-1431. 70 Mott St. J/M/N/Q/R/W/Z/6 trains to Canal St. Open daily 10am–11pm. AE, DC, MC, V. $*

**See Map 7 on p. 80, bullet 40.**

**Tartine** **(p. 77)** WEST VILLAGE *FRENCH* Lovely cafe nestled beneath Village trees.... *Tel 212/229-2611. 253 W. 11th St., at W. 4th St. 1/9 trains to Christopher St. Open Sat–Sun 10:30am–4pm, 5:30–10:30pm. No credit cards. $$*

**See Map 8 on p. 81, bullet 76.**

**Tavern on the Green (p. 75)** UPPER WEST SIDE *AMERICAN* The Central Park classic.... *Tel 212/873-3200. Central Park W. at W. 67th St. 1/9 trains to 66th St–Lincoln Center. Jacket advised; reservations required. Open Mon–Fri 11:30am–3pm, Sun–Thurs 5–10pm, until 11:30pm Fri–Sat, brunch 10am–3:30pm Sat–Sun. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. $$$$*

**See Map 10 on p. 84, bullet 175.**

**Tea & Sympathy (p. 78)** WEST VILLAGE *TEA SHOP* Tea shop, Manchester-style.... *Tel 212/989-9735. www.teaandsympathynewyork.com. 108 Greenwich Ave., between 12th and 13th sts. 1/2/3/9 trains to 14th St. Reservations not accepted. Open daily 11:30am–10pm. MC, V. $$*

**See Map 8 on p. 81, bullet 74.**

**Terrace In The Sky (p. 75)** COLMBIA U. AREA *FRENCH/MEDITERRANEAN* Out of the way location, first-class French-influenced menu, and stupendous cityscape views.... *Tel 212/666-9490. www.terraceinthesky.citysearch.com. 400 W. 119th St. 1/9 trains to 116th St. Open Tues–Fri noon–2:30pm, Tues–Thurs 6–10pm, Fri–Sat 5:30–10:30pm. AE, DC, MC, V. $$$$*

**Tiengarden (p. 60)** LOWER EAST SIDE *VEGAN* Scrumptious Chinese-style veggie cuisine, made with love.... *Tel 212/388-1364. 170 Allen St., between Stanton and Rivington sts. F/V trains to 2nd Ave. Open Mon–Sat noon–10pm. AE, DISC, MC, V. $*

**See Map 7 on p. 80, bullet 31.**

**Tomoe Sushi (p. 70)** WEST VILLAGE *JAPANESE* Crowded, noisy, and unwelcoming, but the sushi is as good as it gets.... *Tel 212/777-9346. 172 Thompson St., between Houston and Bleecker sts. 1/9 trains to Christopher St. No reservations. Open Thurs–Sat 1–3pm, 5–11pm, Wed 5–11pm. AE. $$*

**See Map 7 on p. 80, bullet 65.**

**Trattoria Pesce Pasta (p. 65)** WEST VILLAGE *ITALIAN* Very garlicky southern Italian.... *Tel 212/645-2993. 262 Bleecker St. A/C/E/F/V trains to W. 4th St.; other locations. Open daily noon–midnight. AE, MC, V. $$*

**See Map 8 on p. 81, bullet 90.**

**TriBeCa Grill (p. 57)** TRIBECA *NEW AMERICAN* Robert DeNiro's place, and très chic.... *Tel 212/941-3900. 375 Greenwich St. at Franklin St. 1/9 trains to Franklin St. Reservations required. Open Mon–Thurs 11:30am–11pm, Fri 11:30am–11:30pm, Sat 5:30–11:30pm, Sun 11:30am–3pm and 5:30–10pm. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. $$$*

**See Map 6 on p. 52, bullet 2.**

**Triple Eight Palace (p. 68)** CHINATOWN *CHINESE* This huge restaurant in a mall has great (albeit greasy) food and the feel of

a foreign country .... *Tel 212/941-8886. 88 E. Broadway. F train to E. Broadway. Open daily 9:30am–9pm. AE, MC, V. $$*

**See Map 7 on p. 80, bullet 35.**

**Tse Yang (p. 67)** MIDTOWN EAST *CHINESE* Elegant Chinese food in an equally elegant setting.... *Tel 212/688-5447. www.tseyang.citysearch.com. 34 E. 51st St., between Park and Madison aves. 6 train to 51st or E/V trains to Lexington/3rd Ave. Open daily noon–3pm, 6pm–11. AE, DC, MC, V. $$$$*

**See Map 9 on p. 82, bullet 150.**

**'21' Club (p. 75)** MIDTOWN WEST *AMERICAN* Ultimate bastion of testosterone, with a few surprising culinary innovations, perfect martinis, and a fine wine list.... *Tel 212/582-7200. 21 W. 52nd St. 1/9 trains to 50th St. Jacket and tie and reservations required. Open Mon–Fri noon–2:30pm, Mon–Sat 5:30–10pm, closed in Aug. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. $$$$*

**See Map 9 on p. 82, bullet 152.**

**Union Pacific (p. 59)** GRAMERCY *NEW AMERICAN* Ultra-contemporary space with remarkably inventive global fusion cuisine. Prix-fixe menu changes daily.... *Tel 212/995-8500. 111 East 22nd St. 6 train to 23rd St. Reservations required. Open Mon–Fri noon–2pm and 5:30–10pm, Sat 5:15–10:30pm. AE, MC, V. $$$$*

**See Map 9 on p. 82, bullet 129.**

**Union Square Cafe (p. 54, 62)** UNION SQUARE *AMERICAN* Knockout American cuisine, with French and Italian flourishes.... *Tel 212/243-4020. 21 E. 16th St. 4/5/6/L/N/Q/R/Q trains to Union Square. Reservations required. Open Mon–Sat noon–2:15pm and 6–10:15pm, until 11:15pm Fri–Sat, Sun 5:30–9:45pm. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. $$$$*

**See Map 9 on p. 82, bullet 121.**

**Veselka (p. 74)** EAST VILLAGE *DINER* Your basic Ukrainian coffee shop, with remodeled hipster cachet. Fab pierogis and stuffed cabbage.... *Tel 212/228-9682. 144 2nd Ave. at 9th St. 6 train to Astor Place. Reservations not accepted. AE, DC, DISC, MC. Open 24 hours. $*

**See Map 7 on p. 80, bullet 12.**

**Virgil's Real Barbecue (p. 73)** MIDTOWN WEST *BARBECUE* Ribs, sausage, and chicken accompanied by stuffed jalapeño peppers, mashed potatoes, kale, corn relish, and subs.... *Tel 212/921-9494. 152 W. 44th St., between 6th and 7th aves. 1/2/3/7/9/N/Q/R/W trains to 42nd St./Times Square. Reservations recommended. Open Sun–Mon 11:30am–11pm, Tues–Sat 11:30am–midnight. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. $$*

**See Map 9 on p. 82, bullet 108.**

**Vong (p. 69)** MIDTOWN EAST *FRENCH-THAI* French-tinged Thai stunner.... *Tel 212/486-9592. 200 E. 54th St. 6 train to 51st St.*

*or E/V trains to Lexington/3rd Ave. Jacket suggested; reservations required. Open Mon–Fri noon–2:15pm, Mon–Thurs 6–11pm, Fri 5:30–11pm, Sat 5:30–11:30pm. AE, DC, MC, V. $$$$*

**See Map 9 on p. 82, bullet 155.**

**WD-50** **(p. 61)** LOWER EAST SIDE *NEW AMERICAN* Experimental New American cuisine on the Lower East Side.... *Tel 212/477-2900. 50 Clinton St. F train to Delancey St, J/M/Z trains to Essex St. Mon–Sat 6–11pm. MC, V. $$$$*

**See Map 7 on p. 80, bullet 28.**

**Westville** **(p. 72)** WEST VILLAGE *DINER* Stylish new diner in the West Village.... *Tel 212/741-7971. 210 W. 10th St. 1/9 trains to Christopher St, A/C/E/F/V trains to W. 4th St. No reservations. Open daily noon–midnight. MC, V. $$*

**See Map 8 on p. 81, bullet 78.**

**Yama** **(p. 70)** UNION SQUARE *JAPANESE* Sushi stalwart for savvy New Yorkers.... *Tel 212/475-0969. 122 E. 17th St. 4/5/6/L/N/Q/R/W trains to Union Square; other locations. Open Mon–Fri noon–2:30pm, dinner Mon–Thurs 5:30–10:20pm, Fri–Sat 5:30–11:20pm. AE, MC, V. $$*

**See Map 9 on p. 82, bullet 132.**

**Zarela** **(p. 71)** MIDTOWN EAST *MEXICAN* Boisterous yuppie hang-out serving reasonably authentic Mexican food.... *Tel 212/644-6740. 953 2nd Ave., between 50th and 51st sts. E/V trains to Lexington Ave. or 6 train to 51st St. Reservations recommended. Open Mon–Thurs noon–3pm and 5–11pm, Fri noon–3pm and 5–11:30pm, Sat 5–11:30pm, Sun 5–10pm. AE, DC, MC, V. $$*

**See Map 9 on p. 82, bullet 158.**

**Zen Palate** **(p. 60)** UNION SQUARE, MIDTOWN WEST, UPPER WEST SIDE *ASIAN* Asian health food.... *Tel 212/582-1669. 663 9th Ave. 1/2/3/7/9/N/Q/R/W trains to 42nd St./Times Square. Tel 212/614-9291. 34 Union Square E. 4/5/6/L/N/Q/RW trains to Union Square. Tel 212/501-7768. 2170 Broadway. 1/9 trains to 79th St. www.zenpalate.com. Reservations accepted. Open Mon–Sat 11am–10:45pm, Sun noon–10:45pm. AE, MC, V. $–$$*

**See Map 9 on p. 82, bullets 114, 131.**
**See Map 10 on p. 84, bullet 173.**

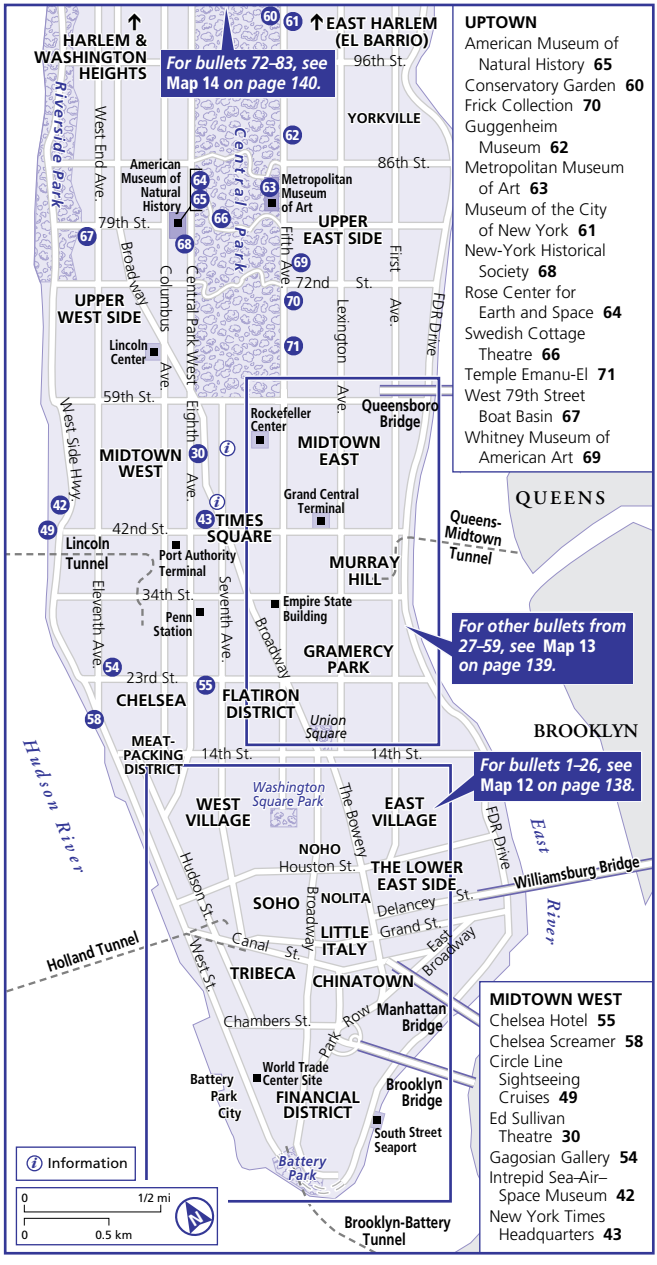
DIVER

# SIONS

# 3

# Map 11: Manhattan Diversions—Orientation






**UPTOWN**

American Museum of Natural History **65**
Conservatory Garden **60**
Frick Collection **70**
Guggenheim Museum **62**
Metropolitan Museum of Art **63**
Museum of the City of New York **61**
New-York Historical Society **68**
Rose Center for Earth and Space **64**
Swedish Cottage Theatre **66**
Temple Emanu-El **71**
West 79th Street Boat Basin **67**
Whitney Museum of American Art **69**

**MIDTOWN WEST**

Chelsea Hotel **55**
Chelsea Screamer **58**
Circle Line Sightseeing Cruises **49**
Ed Sullivan Theatre **30**
Gagosian Gallery **54**
Intrepid Sea–Air–Space Museum **42**
New York Times Headquarters **43**

# Basic Stuff

New York Harbor and Miss Liberty, the Brooklyn Bridge, the Empire State Building, Times Square—that's the short list of New York City's must-sees. The unabridged list would take up volumes, not even counting ephemeral attractions like a glowing skyscraper that draws you toward it from 20 blocks away, or the city blanketed in snow and everything so still that you can walk down the center of Broadway and hear the flapping wings of a passing flock of Canadian Geese. Taking in everything could drive a person to distraction. So make it easy on yourself by picking out one or two top attractions to visit each day. After you visit them, roam around the neighborhoods where they lie, taking the distinct pulse of the place by simply sitting on a park bench or in a cafe. Then wander on, preferably by foot. Don't be surprised if your most memorable New York moments are the ones cooked up by serendipity.



### Getting Your Bearings

Manhattanites often feel that theirs is the only borough worth mentioning, but rapid evolutions on the far side of the bridges and tunnels have made that snobbery harder to justify. Brooklyn's neighborhoods have become a magnet for the hip, so desirable that people have been known to pay higher rents on the Brooklyn side than they did in Manhattan (something unimaginable a few years ago). The island of Manhattan is still the core and center, but it's just one of the five boroughs that make up New York City. The Bronx lies to the north, the only part of the city on mainland New York State, to the east are Brooklyn and Queens, and to the south is the sparsely populated (by New York standards) Staten Island. The population of the entire city is 8 million and growing. About 1.5 million people sleep in Manhattan, with an additional million or two pouring in every weekday to work.

Access to the island is provided by 3 tunnels, some 12 bridges, the Staten Island and Hudson River ferries, and Roosevelt Island's aerial tram. From 14th Street all the way up to the northern tip of Manhattan, getting the lay of the land is a cinch because in 1811 urban planners laid the city out on a virtually unvarying grid. Numbered avenues run north and south. Sixth Avenue is also known as the Avenue of the Americas. Between Fifth and Third lie three named avenues—Madison, Park, and Lexington (Park turns into Fourth Avenue

below 14th Street until it dead ends near Washington Square)—and east of First Avenue you'll find York and East End Avenue uptown, while the Upper West Side confuses everything by renaming its avenues: Central Park West, Columbus, Amsterdam, and West End. Numbered streets run east and west—though traffic moves alternately east or west, since most streets are one-way, except for the major cross-streets: 14th, 23rd, 34th, 42nd, 57th, 72nd, 79th, 86th, and 96th. Broadway cuts across the grid on one sweeping, 17-mile northwest diagonal. Fifth Avenue is the city's "Continental Divide" in terms of addresses; east and west of it, cross-street addresses start at zero and are prefixed by an E. or W. (hence 240 E. 37th St. or 315 W. 53rd St.) Avenue addresses baffle everybody—while 633 Third Avenue is at 40th Street, 633 Madison Avenue is at 59th Street. Your best bet is to call ahead and ask what the nearest cross-street is.

Between old Indian trails and intersections designed to accommodate various walls, springs, and canals, downtown bearings are harder to come by. Remaining true to its nonconformist nature, Greenwich Village refused to let city planners lay a grid over its chaotic streets. The result is a very charming place to get lost in (though it's not quite so charming when you're late for an appointment and can't figure out how West 4th and West 11th can possibly cross each other). Adding to the fun are not one, not two, but *three* Broadways. West Broadway cuts north-south through the heart of TriBeCa and SoHo, and East Broadway runs east-west from Chinatown to the Lower East Side. For navigational ease, hang on to the lifeline of Broadway (the one without the prefix that cuts north-south through the center of the island). Walking south on Broadway, the area between 14th and Houston is NoHo (north of Houston, logically enough), with points west being the West Village and points east the East Village. South of Houston is SoHo until Canal Street, the commercial heart of Chinatown. To the east of Chinatown is the Lower East Side, to the west is TriBeCa (the "triangle below Canal"), and to the south is the Financial District. Streets in the Financial District are a dog's breakfast, though a new series of signs directing tourists to points of interest make navigation easier. If you're coming from the subway, most stations have neighborhood maps posted near the token booths; take a moment to study up before ascending.

# The Lowdown

**God save our mad parade...** New York loves a parade, at least when it isn't in a cab trying to get crosstown with traffic insanely backed up because yet another obscure ethnic group has decided that Sunday is the day to celebrate its identity and block the streets of Midtown, in which case New York hates a parade. The big Fifth Avenue pageants that tie up the city and occasionally bring mayhem to the streets can induce cursing and groaning from long-time residents, but if you've never been to one the spectacle is pretty amazing. The Irish still have a claim on the classic parade, with 150,000 marchers celebrating **St. Patrick's Day** (11am on March 17; tel 212/484-1222). Bands, floats, and all things Irish tramp down Fifth Avenue from 86th to 44th streets, right past St. Patrick's Cathedral, of course. Other ethnic parades down Fifth Avenue can be found on **Puerto Rico Day, Columbus Day, Israel Day,** and dozens of other days scattered across the calendar. Eastern Parkway in Brooklyn plays host to 2 million revelers at the



### The Lowdown on Times Square

*The* New York Times *lent its name to Times Square, but for decades the Gray Lady and the square itself were on completely different pages. The* Times *(headquartered at 229 West 43rd, between Seventh and Eighth aves.) was the paper of record and* ***Times Square*** *was the city's sleaze central, populated by pimps and pushers. Stately old theaters specialized in XXX double features, and the rest of the retail space seemed reserved for peep shows. The whitewashing impulses of the Guiliani years turned the giant X-shaped intersection of Broadway, Seventh Avenue, and 42nd Street onto its head. The sex industry got pushed out to the farthest margins of the neighborhood, and the corporations came marching in. The result is a charmless agglomeration of neon, billboards, and super-sized chain restaurants that can make a pedestrian feel like she's walking through a scene from the movie* Blade-runner. *Adding to the frustration is the mass of people and traffic. At peak hours the streets are all but impassable. The density of the action and the volume of lighted signs are novelties that are worth a quick checking out, but it's hard to believe anyone but a pickpocket would want to linger here. If your trip just won't be complete without a look, here's my advice: Go on a weeknight, when the herds of slack-jawed tourists thin, and the bridge-and-tunnel teens stay home. Once there, indulge your inner postmodernist and revel in the hyper-consumer spectacle of it all (this takes about five minutes). Then leave and go somewhere genuinely interesting.*

**West Indian-American Day Parade** (Labor Day, tel 212/484-1222). Come for the colorful costumes and Caribbean rhythms; stay for the tasty roti and ox-tail. West Indian food is just one of the cuisines featured at the **Ninth Avenue International Food Festival** (mid-May, tel 212/484-1222), when Ninth Avenue from West 57th to 37th streets turns into one giant global-village smorgasbord; booths purvey everything from empanadas to Thai spring rolls. **Lesbian and Gay Pride Week** and March (in mid-June, tel 212/807-7433) culminates in another wild ride of a parade (generally on Sunday morning), with guys in such exquisite drag it would put RuPaul to shame. The **Fourth of July** just isn't the same (thank-goodness!) since the city cracked down on illegal fireworks. Don't worry, though—you can still have a bang-up time around 9pm on the waterfront between Battery Park and South Street Seaport, with a fireworks show (tel 212/494-2922) gorgeously mirrored in the water. Mid-August brings **Harlem Week** (tel 212/484-1222), with celebrations of black and Hispanic culture centering around 125th Street. New York's version of Mardi Gras comes every fall with the **Greenwich Village Halloween Parade** (October 31, after nightfall, of course, tel

### Coney Island's Mermaid Parade

***Coney Island,*** *where south Brooklyn meets the Atlantic, has been an amusement magnet for almost a century. New Yorkers came initially for the beaches, but attractions like Luna Park, the Cyclone roller coaster, and assorted freak shows soon became big draws. During the summers of the 1920s, when it was carnival time, Coney Island saw over a million visitors a day. Today's crowds are much smaller, as are the amusement parks that cluster around the boardwalk. One day a year, however, the old Coney Island spectacle overflows again in the form of the* ***Mermaid Parade.*** *New York's most eclectic carnival comes around every June (the 22nd Annual version is tentatively scheduled for June 26, 2004; see www.coneyisland.com/mermaid.shtml for more information), and if your trip to the city coincides, it's a must-see. Mermaids and Mermen in homemade costumes twirl parasols as they promenade behind classic cars. The outfits are long on body paint and beads and short on fabric, the better to show off elaborate tattoos (another major element of Coney Island's heritage). Expect to see fans like David Byrne, as well as the vanguard of New York's retro-culture scene. To reach the event, take the W train to Coney Island/Stillwell Avenue, and then walk toward the Atlantic. At parade's end, everyone dashes down the beach and dives in the ocean. If you're not gorging on hot dogs by then, you may be tempted to do the same.*

212/475-3333 x4044), which bops up Sixth Avenue from Spring to 23rd streets. Expect extraordinarily elaborate costumes, festive crowds, and plenty of gallows humor. More wholesome by a mile is the **Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade** (tel 212/494-2922), when kids zipped up into warm winter coats line the curbs of Central Park West and Broadway from West 77th Street to Herald Square, growing rosy-cheeked and enchanted at the sight of celebrity-laden floats and gigantic helium-filled balloon effigies of cartoon favorites from Rocky to Bullwinkle and beyond. If some of the grown-ups look bleary-eyed, they probably went to West 77th Street and Columbus Avenue after midnight the night before to watch the giant balloons being inflated. Or you could just happen to strike it lucky and land in the city for a ticker-tape parade, which is how New York celebrates great civic and national events (such as Yankees World Series wins), on Broadway from Battery Park to City Hall. On a much smaller scale are New York's street fairs and block parties. Sure, it sounds like fun, but most are little more than traffic-diverting commercial affairs, specializing in T-shirts and three-for-a-dollar sock sales. Even famous attractions like September's San Gennaro Festival (tel 212/768-9320) in Little Italy have devolved into little more than low-end commerce opportunities. Locals tend to steer clear, although I have to admit that deep-fried Mexican corn is pretty good.

**The Amazin' Met...** You should budget at least 10 full days of your visit for exploring the **Metropolitan Museum of Art** in Upper East Side. Okay, your schedule probably won't accommodate the complete-complete tour, so don't try to pack the whole thing into one afternoon. My preferred strategy is to pick a couple of areas to focus on and save the rest for another trip. The Roman and Greek Galleries are a top enticement, newly remodeled with great lighting. The Frank Lloyd Wright room in the American Wing is spectacular, and the painting galleries, with Sargent, Degas, Picasso, and van Gogh represented, are none too shabby either. The 15th-century **Studiolo from the Ducal Palace in Gubbio** is worth a special detour, an inlaid-wood trompe l'oeil in the European Sculpture and Decorative Arts department. Up on the Met roof, a sculpture garden offers great views, in addition to Friday-night

cocktail chatter in summer. The Met's special exhibitions are almost always worth weathering the large crowds that they attract (though you can put yourself at an advantage by coming to the museum early or late, and avoiding the midday masses). 2004 brings shows on Arms & Armor, Byzantium, Matisse, Chuck Close, and Leonardo and Caravaggio in Lombardy. When all those display cases start to blur together, a great break spot is the Astor Chinese Garden Court, a little pocket of Ming Dynasty harmony in the middle of the Asian Art section on the second floor. For a longer spell, the **Temple of Dendur** at the northern end of the Egyptian Wing should not be missed. The Temple, rescued from the rising floods of the Aswan High Dam, now rests behind the safer waters of an ornamental pool. Many masterworks from the Met's medieval collection aren't in the Met at all, but way up on Manhattan's west side, in Fort Tryon Park: **The Cloisters** holds, among other treasures, the Unicorn Tapestries, an illuminated manuscript called **Les Belles Heures du Duc de Berry**, and the 12th-century Bury St. Edmunds Cross. But many will find the Cloisters most memorable for its dramatic Hudson River cliffside setting and bizarre composition, a Frankensteinesque amalgamation of medieval architecture from all over Europe: a Romanesque chapel, a 12th-century Spanish apse, and portions of cloisters from five different monasteries.

**Deep in the art of Queens...** Industrial chic may be an oxymoron, but its fingerprints are all over town. Even the venerable MoMA has succumbed, moving from white-gloved West 53rd out to an unassuming strip of factories and warehouses in Queens. Sure, it's only until 2005, when Yoshio Taniguchi's $650 million renovation of the home office is completed, but in the meantime we're left with only a fraction of the collection available. It would have been hard to convince the old Swingline Stapler's factory hands that van Gogh's *Starry Night*, Picasso's *Les Demoiselles d'Avignon*, and Mondrian's *Broadway Boogie-Woogie* would adorn the former Long Island City shop floor, but they're there, next to larger galleries dedicated to rotating exhibits. A program on photography, fashion, and film will be up from April to July of 2004, giving way to an exhibit on landscape design.

If those subjects grab you, make the trip; otherwise, you may be disappointed with **MoMA QNS's** limited collection and perfunctory interiors. A more interesting space on the western side of Long Island City is the **P.S. 1 Contemporary Art Center.** A MoMA affiliate, this 19th-century public school rotates avant-garde shows through its former classrooms. In the summer a guest artist creates an "urban beach" in front of the museum, with DJs providing Saturday afternoons soundtracks. The **Queens Museum of Art** has marble reproductions and some nice Tiffany glass, but the real draw is *The Panorama of New York City*, the world's largest scale model. Every single building in the five boroughs is represented, in addition to every street and bridge, and even a couple of airplanes that take off and land at a tiny LaGuardia. The Museum is located in Corona Park, on the site of the legendary '64 World's Fair. Right outside the building is the Unisphere, a highlight of the fair and the largest representation of earth that we humans have cooked up yet. Twelve gleaming stories high, the Unisphere will give you a good idea of what the globe looks like from 6,000 miles in space.

**Art and leisure...** Titian, Vermeer, and Goya probably never imagined their paintings would end up on a sparsely populated island way across the Atlantic, but some of their art did migrate to the New World, and some of those treasures ended up in the **Frick Collection.** Henry Clay Frick built an intimate Gilded Age mansion on Fifth Avenue in what is now the Upper East Side to house his classic paintings, including Whistler's stunningly pink ***Valerie, Lady Meux***. When you pass through the Rembrandts, think of the words of poet Frank O'Hara: "I look at you and I would rather look at you than all the portraits in the world except possibly for the *'Polish Rider'* occasionally and anyway it's in the Frick." The **American Folk Art Museum** has moved into a slender new building in Midtown West, on the same block as the under-construction MoMA. The architecture is spectacular, though maybe better suited for a collection of Japanese ceramics than for the rustic folk art it houses. If you can get past the high-tech interior finishes, the permanent collection of self-taught artists is intriguing, and several floors are devoted to

changing exhibitions, like "America Looks at Baseball," running through June, 2004. Another recent addition to the city's overflowing museum cup is the **International Center of Photography,** consolidated from two locations into one cavernous space in Midtown. 2003 saw the inauguration of a new tradition, the ICP Triennial, devoted to the best of contemporary shutterbugs. Even if the walls were blank, **Frank Lloyd Wright's Guggenheim** would be well worth the trip to the Upper East Side. Artists complained bitterly at first (what else would you expect from artists?) about the curved walls that spiral up seven stories, but Frank knew what he was doing, and flat art mounts on the walls just fine. You'll feel like you're climbing through a nautilus shell as you view the latest temporary installation in the central atrium, recently tending toward low-art crowd-pleasers like motorcycles and Norman Rockwell. A tower alongside the spiral hosts a permanent collection stocked with Chagalls, Matisses, van Goghs, and Picassos. A few blocks south **The Whitney Museum** of American Art counters with a collection rich in Edward Hopper, Louise Nevelson, and Georgia O'Keeffe. The Whitney is best known for its Biennial, coming around again in 2004 and featuring the latest Next Big Things in the contemporary art world. Critics and locals often pan the show, but hating it is at least half the fun. Warm up your best derisive stare because the Biennial is a must-see.

### Free Culture

*Insiders take advantage of "pay what you wish nights" at the **Museum of Modern Art,** the **Whitney Museum of American Art,** and the **Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum** (Fridays for all three) and the **Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum** (Tuesdays) and **Jewish Museum** (Thursdays). These are among the city's greatest museums, and the bulk of the crowds often go off to dinner after about 5pm—leaving you free to wander with only a few like-minded souls. Friday and Saturday are date nights at the **Metropolitan Museum of Art,** where old marble and canvas becomes the backdrop for a happening meet market, with drinks, music, and late closing.*

**The gallery beat...** With SoHo rents up, and SoHo streets clogged with lumpen shoppers, most of the art world cool kids have decamped for We-Che (West Chelsea, although the nickname has only caught on with the real estate agents). Chelsea's looming industrial warehouses lack

### Gallery Scoop

*A good source for figuring out what galleries to check out is the* **Village Voice,** *which lists its favorite shows in the weekly paper and on the website (www.villagevoice.com/art).* **Time Out New York,** *the "Arts Guide" in the weekend section of the* ***Friday*** **New York Times,** *and www.galleryguide.org are other good places to look.*

SoHo's cast-iron charm, but you can't quibble with the convenience. Some 90 galleries are packed into a 5 block area that runs between 20th and 26th streets and Tenth and Eleventh avenues. Most are open Tuesday through Saturday 10am to 6pm, with less reliable hours in the sleepy summer season. West 24th Street has a string of heavy-hitter galleries, including **Gagosian Gallery,** which shows the likes of Richard Serra, Vera Lutter, and Damien Hirst. If you don't like what you see there, poke your head in the neighboring galleries. Though the high-art world remains trapped in a wearying phase of conceptual art, there are simply too many well-lit white walls out here to go a whole day without at least a few glimmers of genius. Pick a building, ride the elevator to the top, and wander your way back down on the stairs. **535 West 22nd Street** is a perfect stop for gallery hopping. Heck, it's all free—unless you get an irresistible urge to plunk down $10,000 for that bowl full of the artist's pubic hair.

**The rest is history...** Never shy about self-promotion, New York has *two* separate museums oriented toward its own history. In Spanish Harlem (east of Harlem proper), the exhibits at the **Museum of the City of New York** trace New York from the windmills of its Dutch colonial days up to its present status as the (self-proclaimed) Capital of the World. Lovely period rooms and a collection of theatrical memorabilia are highlights of the collection. Located in the Upper West Side, you'll find **The New-York Historical Society** (the society was formed before the hyphen was dropped from the spelling of New York; 2 centuries later the Society has yet to spring for a competent proofreader), which specializes in Americana, with an emphasis on New York. Up on the fourth floor, the **Henry Luce III Center for the Study of American Culture** is a newly opened

gallery chock-full of collectibles that had been gathering dust for decades. With the city recently on a crusade to shut down peep shows, strip clubs, and dirty book stores, maybe in a couple of years the last prurience in Manhattan will be found behind glass at the new **Museum of Sex** in Manhattan's Gramercy Park area. Exhibits on 19th-century New York brothels and video of Times Square in its Live Sex seventies heyday may make some pine for grittier eras. Do not bring the kids, though. A museum better suited to impressionable young minds is the **New York City Fire Museum,** housed in a converted 1904 firehouse in SoHo. There are hoses and axes and fire engines, and real live firefighters, too. The exhibits related to 9/11 are especially moving; 343 firefighters gave their lives just a few blocks to the south of the museum, one aspect of the city's history unlikely to ever be forgotten.

**Liberty for all...** America is a nation of immigrants. The influx of huddled masses peaked around the turn of the 20th century, with New York processing nearly three-quarters of the newest Americans. Between 1892 and 1924, 16 million people filtered through Ellis Island. Upon reaching New York Harbor, the first thing many of them saw was the **Statue of Liberty,** still perhaps the city's most stirring sight. Copper-coated Miss Liberty, standing 150 feet from base to torch, was designed by Frederic-Auguste Bartholdi, Alexandre Gustave Eiffel, and Richard Morris Hunt. To reach her, take a ferry from Battery Park to Liberty Island, which has recently reopened (although security concerns keep the Lady herself off-limits for the time being. Call the Visitor's Bureau at tel 800/NYC-VISIT to see if there's been a change in status). The ferry ticket booth is, appropriately, at Battery Park's **Castle Clinton,** an 1811 fort that served as the city's prime disembarkation point for immigrants before the opening of **Ellis Island** (also reached by ferry from Battery Park). Ellis Island's Great Hall has been carefully restored and is now called the **Ellis Island Immigration Museum;** displays of immigrant memorabilia can be toured and if your ancestors came through here, you may be able to look up their entrance date on a public computer. The American Immigrant Wall of Honor outside, skirting the waterfront, is moving to behold, with the names of 420,000 immigrants inscribed. When newcomers finally reached Manhattan, many carried their baggage up

Broadway, then veered right into the Lower East Side. A long-time "starter" neighborhood, the building stock hasn't changed much over the last century, still a collection of weathered walk-up tenements on narrow, crowded streets. Once defined as a 4-mile chunk of southeastern Manhattan, now the neighborhood is generally considered to comprise the area south of the East Village and east of the Bowery, running all the way to the East River. Most of the Italians, Irish, Africans, and Germans who once settled here have moved on, giving way to newer populations of Chinese, Hispanics, and GenX hipsters. (There's no small irony in 1930s immigrants working their tails off to escape the Lower East Side, only to find their grandchildren plunking down $2,000 a month or more to live in the very same crumbling buildings. Is it next stop Minsk for the hipsters?) Jews remain the prevalent population in the high-rise brick apartment buildings along Grand Street, and also a commercial presence on the retail-explosion of Orchard Street. At 97 Orchard St. is the **Lower East Side Tenement Museum,** housed in an 1863 tenement. Seven thousand tenants passed through this tiny building in the decades before 1935, when building codes changed and the building was sealed. Stop by the Visitors' Center at 90 Orchard St. (at Broome St.) to sign up for a guided tour of the tenement's time-capsule rooms, lovingly redecorated to portray the privations of the immigrant's life. Another side of Jewish life is portrayed in Battery Park at the recently inaugurated **Museum of Jewish Heritage: A Living Memorial to the Holocaust,** where artifacts, documents, photographs, and film clips shed a wrenching light on Jewish life immediately before, during, and after World War II. A huge new wing opened in the fall of 2003, with an Andy Goldsworthy–designed memorial garden overlooking the life-affirming vision of Lady Liberty and the New York Harbor.

**New York stories...** Great poets have left their marks all over New York, beginning with that dauntless American oracle, **Walt Whitman,** raised in a house on **Cranberry Street** across from Plymouth Church in Brooklyn Heights. As a reporter for the ***Brooklyn Eagle*** he roamed far and wide, drinking in New York and its people, resulting in his poetic masterpiece ***Leaves of Grass,*** which he set

at a print shop once located at **170 Fulton St.** Poet Hart Crane followed Whitman over the East River so he could haunt the same streets. Master of the macabre, **Edgar Allen Poe** had a peripatetic New York existence. He left addresses all over the city, finally ending up at a humble farmhouse in the Bronx. The salubrious country air is long gone, but the Edgar Allan Poe Cottage remains, with Poe exhibits and period furnishings. Pete's Tavern (129 E. 18th and Irving Place) just off Union Square is a cozy spot that goes back to the Lincoln administration. Pete's earned its place in New York literary history when O. Henry wrote "The Gift of the Magi" there. The streets of the West Village ooze with literary history. The modernist **e.e. cummings** grew old, crusty, and reclusive at **4 Patchin Place,** a secretive little mews off 10th Street west of Sixth Avenue; **Bob Dylan** haunted clubs around the intersection of **Bleecker** and **Macdougal streets.** Welsh poet **Dylan Thomas** drank himself to death in a bar at the southwest corner of Hudson and West 11th streets. Inside the murder weapon, the White Horse Tavern (567 Hudson), you can down a beer beside a Dylan Thomas shrine. Thomas spent his last bleerily alcoholic nights at Victorian Gothic **Chelsea Hotel** (222 W. 23rd St.), also inhabited at various times by **Tennessee Williams,** Brendan Behan, and **Arthur Miller.** Thomas Wolfe wrote *You Can't Go Home Again* at the Chelsea. One of Manhattan's most intriguing homes is the **Merchant's House Museum,** on the edge of the East Village, last redecorated around the Civil War. Time stands still inside the town house, with its perfectly preserved Greek Revival interior and tantalizing glimpses of 19th-century New York. The character Catherine Sloper, of Henry James's *Washington Square*, is reputed to have been inspired by the last resident of the house, the merchant's daughter Gertrude Tredwell.

**Beautiful buildings, Downtown...** "Look up!" exclaims the estimable **American Institute of Architects Guide to New York City.** This is the only way to appreciate Manhattan's grand, gorgeous buildings, though with so much to absorb at street level, it's easy to pass them by. So make a special trip to the **Woolworth Building** at 233 Broadway just below City Hall, a 60-story skyscraper with enchanting Gothic embellishments that was once the tallest

building in the world. It was known as the "Cathedral of Commerce" when dimestore magnate F.W. Woolworth had it erected (paying $13.5 million in cash) in 1913, employing Cass Gilbert as architect. The lobby has a marvelous glass-mosaic vaulted ceiling, where you'll find a gargoyle-ish likeness of Mr. Woolworth counting coins at the top of a crossbeam on the south side. Unfortunately, as of press time, you'll have to glimpse the lobby from outside the doors: In New York's current security-obsessed climate, the lobby is closed to tourists. Step over to City Hall Park to view the Woolworth from a distance, then turn to note the fine neoclassical Federal lines of **City Hall** itself, and the handsome twin towers of the **Park Row Building** across the traffic island to the south (15 Park Row between Ann and Beekman sts.), Manhattan's tallest edifice from 1899 to 1908. The foyer of the **American Telephone and Telegraph Building** (195 Broadway), a fascinating forest of columns, nearly rivals the Woolworth lobby.

**Beautiful buildings, Midtown classics...** Everyone stops short when they come upon the **Flatiron Building,** which rises in an awesome wedge at the skinny triangular meeting of Broadway, Fifth Avenue, and 23rd Street. When it went up in 1902, the building was known as "Burnham's Folly," but folks came to accept, and eventually embrace, builder Daniel H. Burnham's vision. Wind whips around the building's base, and young men of the early 1900s stood on the corner to watch the effect on local skirts. The cops would chase the lads away, repeating a cry that entered the language as the phrase "23 skidoo." The entire neighborhood is now known as the Flatiron District. A 10 block scoot up Fifth Avenue will get you to the **Empire State Building** (Fifth Ave. and 33rd St.), the world's most famous skyscraper. Stretching 1,250 feet above Midtown, it was the tallest building in the city from opening day in 1931 until the World Trade Center superseded it in the 1970s (which of course means it's the city's tallest again). At night the upper stories are illuminated by a changing scheme of colored lights and can be seen from vantage points all over the city. Another 10 blocks north will take you to the **Chrysler Building** (405 Lexington Ave. at 42nd St.), which was the tallest building in the world before the Empire State stole its thunder. To get a good view of this 1930 Art

Deco landmark, find a spot on Lexington Avenue in the high Forties and look downtown, marveling at the building's outlandish crown, composed of six levels of brilliant stainless-steel arches topped by a dramatically lit lancet spire. Closer up you'll find brickwork designs inspired by automobile hubcaps, and a Jazz Age fantasy in African marble in the lobby. Two stone lions greet visitors on the broad stone steps of the **New York Public Library** (Fifth Ave. and 42nd St.), a few blocks from the Chrysler Building, where there are al fresco cafes and plenty of shady spots for brown-bag lunches. The main reading room recently underwent a massive restoration that included uncovering stories-tall windows that had been blacked out during World War II and wiring the golden oak reading tables for dataports. This 1911 building is New York Beaux Arts at its best, with a grand, airy lobby, Romanesque arches, and two sweeping side staircases. Rotating exhibitions inside show off rare books and manuscripts from the NYPL's collection. Head east a couple of blocks on 42nd Street and you'll reach **Grand Central Station** (42nd at Park Ave.), also a public building that's nothing short of an urban epiphany. The facade is part Art Nouveau, part Viennese Secessionist, and an even bigger part Beaux Arts, with the whole colossal hulk of the building lying over a cavernous train shed with 10 unique loop tunnels, sending inbound trains right back out again. (Technically it's not a station but a terminal, at the end of several Metro North commuter train lines.) $175 million in restoration money later, the half-acre marble floor of the main concourse gleams and you can make out the constellations on the sky ceiling (if the roof were gone and there wasn't light pollution, the ceiling approximates what the winter stars over New York would look like). Stand near the famous central clock and observe what a 1937 radio broadcast described as the "crossroads of a million private lives! Gigantic stage on which are played a thousand dramas daily."

Just east of Grand Central and the Chrysler Building, you'll find the **Daily News Building** (220 E. 42nd St., between Second and Third aves.), with a powerful red-and-black-striped composition; check out the huge globe and weather instruments in the lobby, but don't look for the newspaper because the ***Daily News*** moved to cheaper digs in 1995.

**Beautiful buildings, Midtown moderns...** Those who favor modern architecture should stop by the **Seagram Building** (375 Park Ave., between 52nd and 53rd sts.), designed in the International Style by Mies van der Rohe in 1958, with interiors (including the lobby-level Four Seasons restaurant; see "Dining") by Philip Johnson. This simple, black-mirrored rectangle looms powerfully, fronted by a plaza—actually one of the first introduced in the high-rent district of Midtown. Equally impressive is **Lever House,** completed in 1952, which opened up the whole block of Park Avenue between East 53rd and 54th streets; one stainless-steel-and-glass slab sits on columns occupying the site horizontally, while another rises at the north end, creating one gigantic, backwards L. The **Citicorp Center** (Lexington Ave. between 53rd and 54th sts.) shot up in 1978, with two lower-level shopping and eating arcades and a height of 900 feet; its top 130 feet have been sliced diagonally, yielding the building's signature angled crest. The same angled crest motif can be seen in miniature on St. Peter's Lutheran Church (corner of 54th and Lexington). St. Peter's was the cause of the odd 10-story opening in the skyscraper's base; in exchange for giving up its air rights, the church asked for a house of worship completely independent of Citi's high-rise temple to mammon. Another modernistic landmark lies 1 block to the east at 885 Third Ave.: New Yorkers call it the **"Lipstick Building"** because of its tapering, rounded shape. John Burgee and Philip Johnson were the architects, which must have been convenient for Johnson, since he lived virtually around the corner at 242 E. 52nd St., in a shockingly contemporary town house he designed, now the **Museum of Modern Art Guesthouse.** Even more cutting-edge is French architect Christian de Portzamparc's new **Christian Dior Tower,** on East 57th Street between Fifth and Madison avenues. Green, blue, and white fluorescent tubes glow along the edges where its fractured crystal planes intersect. It sounds gaudy, but in reality it's more like a reinvention of Art Deco.

**On the square...** Manhattan's small-scale parks are continuing to make a comeback. Across the city, sketchy squares are once again respites for locals seeking tranquillity amid the hustling metropolis. Once referred to as Manhattan's

largest public urinal, Midtown's **Bryant Park** (Sixth Ave. between 40th and 42nd sts.) has exchanged its seedy character for a seeded lawn, along with pebbled paths, very Parisian green iron folding chairs, clean restrooms, and a stage for free mid-day concerts and free Monday night movies in summer. During fashion weeks, the hot designers compete to set up runways for models to prance upon (usually within tents closed to the public). **Union Square** (Broadway and Park Ave. S., 14th to 16th sts.) has hosted political protests and labor rallies since the Civil War. A new generation of politically aware citizens has rediscovered Union Square, and vigils and protests can often be found near the 1856 equestrian statue of George Washington on the south side of the square. On the concrete flats of the north side, a splendid **Greenmarket** appears every Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday. Sedate **Gramercy Park** (20th to 21st sts., at the foot of Lexington Ave.) is surrounded by a distinguished residential neighborhood, where the town houses are decorated with New Orleans-style wrought-iron porticoes and porches. You'll have to enjoy the greenery from the wrong side of the elaborate fence, though. The square is private property, and only residents have keys. In the **West Village,** where Seventh Avenue South crosses West 4th and Christopher streets, little **Sheridan Square** was the place where homosexual protestors clashed with cops in the Stonewall Riot, sparking the beginning of the country's gay activism. The **General Philip H. Sheridan monument** strikes an odd note, with statues of gay and lesbian couples taking up bench space below him. If you stop in only one square during your visit to New York, make it **Washington Square,** where Fifth Avenue ends a block south of 8th Street with a grand triumphal arch designed by Stanford White. During a recent restoration of the arch, as layer after layer of paint was removed, political graffiti stretching back through several generations was revealed. A trout stream ran through this area in the 18th century, and one corner of what is now the square was used as a Potter's Field. In the early part of the 19th century, wealthy New Yorkers moved up here to escape downtown congestion—including Henry James's grandmother, who lived at 18 Washington Square North (to the city's everlasting shame, the row

house was demolished to make way for a soulless brick apartment building). James would be amazed to see Washington Square Park now; the "established repose" and 19th-century gentility have been completely replaced by a festive circus atmosphere. The wide central fountain is the city's top stage for street performers, its fenced-in dogwalk yields canine shows, musicians noodle away on their instruments or join together for day-into-night sing-alongs, and NYU students use the place for a quad (indeed, it's the scene of the university's commencement ceremonies every spring). Chess is the park's prime sport, played at stone tables at the southwest corner. Recent police attention to the park has chased off the once-ubiquitous drug dealers and made Washington Square a focal point for all strata of the West Village.

**Steeple chase...** With so much of New York's art lining the walls of museums, most tourists don't venture into the city's churches, unless maybe to go to a gospel service up in Harlem (see "Way Uptown," below). During the week, however, Manhattan churches are peaceful oases, where one can sit, breathe, and think. **St. Patrick's Cathedral** (Fifth Ave. and 50th St.) is a cavernous edifice designed by James Renwick in the mid-19th century, skirted by wide stone steps and pinnacled by twin 330-foot Gothic spires. Just a couple of blocks north is the less-trafficked **St. Thomas Church** (Fifth Ave. and 53rd St.), an Episcopal French-Gothic beauty. In addition to services, Sundays feature organ recitals and angelic choirs, with more choral performances every Tuesday night (ticket required). Also in Midtown, **St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church** (Park Ave. at 51st St.), built in 1918, has grand Romanesque vaulting, Byzantine decorations, and, being a socially responsible sort of congregation, a homeless shelter in the foyer. A little farther east, tucked beneath the northwest corner of the **Citicorp Center** (Lexington Ave. and 54th St.), is **St. Peter's Lutheran Church,** often the showcase for Off-Off Broadway theatrical productions; the minuscule **Erol Beker Chapel** at the north side is what really makes it worth a stop—designed by Louise Nevelson in pure white. The world's largest Jewish house of worship, Temple Emanu-El, presides over 65th Street and Fifth Avenue. No

steeple, but spectacular Moorish and Romanesque touches, which can be savored during weekly tours (noon on Saturdays after morning services). Uptown, the Cathedral of St. John the Divine (Amsterdam Ave. at 112th St.) still struggles toward completion. It was started in 1892, and conceived on an incredibly grand scale—indeed, if the last gargoyle is ever finally sculpted and set, it will be the biggest Gothic cathedral in the world. The seat of New York's Episcopal Diocese, St. John's is known for its interfaith tradition and its open mind. The Keith Haring Altar in the Chapel of St. Savior is a gorgeous stylized Russian icon, completed just a month before the artist's death of AIDS in 1990. In the Labor Chapel, an FDNY memorial has drawn a moving collection of personal memorabilia. Graceful, Gothic **Riverside Church,** over at 120th Street and Riverside Drive, was a hotbed for Vietnam War opposition, fueled by the wise, reasoned voice of the Reverend William Sloane Coffin. You can ascend its belfry for a peaceful refuge 392 feet high, with sweeping views of the Hudson River and New Jersey beyond; the carillon has 74 bells weighing 100 tons, and chimes daily at noon and on Sundays at 3pm. Downtown, stop into the **Church of the Ascension** on Fifth Avenue and 10th Street to take a gander at the elaborate marble altar by Augustus Saint-Gaudens and the vast altarpiece behind it, painted by John La Farge. All the way Downtown, on lower Broadway at the end of Wall Street, the first **Trinity Church** was built in 1696. The original church was burned down by British General Howe in 1776; the lovely Gothic gem that stands here now was completed in 1846, with huge bronze doors designed by Richard Morris Hunt and a bucolic colonial-era cemetery wrapped around it. One of Trinity's chapels, **St. Paul's** (at Broadway and Vesey St.), survives as the city's oldest public building in continuous use, built in 1766 with Scotsman Thomas McBean as architect. The heart of the building is a modest Georgian hall, topped 30 years later by a somewhat ostentatious spire. Inside in addition to 9/11 exhibits (the chapel was nearly destroyed by the collapsing towers before becoming an anchor of the community as it grieved), you'll find the pew where George Washington worshipped from 1789 to 1790, when New York served as the nation's capital.

**Reel NYC...** The movie industry started in the New York area (New Jersey, to be exact, where Thomas Edison had his lab), and so many films and television shows have used the city for a backdrop that walking around here gives many folks a disconcerting sense of déjà vu. Christopher Reeve and Margot Kidder posed at the entrance to the **Daily News Building** (220 E. 42nd St.) in the 1978 film version of ***Superman***; the **New York County Courthouse** downtown (Centre and Pearl sts.) served in 1957 as the opening setting for ***Twelve Angry Men***, which starred Henry Fonda; a white town house at **171 E. 71st St.** was Audrey Hepburn's East Side digs when she wasn't window-shopping at 57th and Fifth in ***Breakfast at Tiffany's;*** the **New York Public Library** was de-spooked in 1984's ***Ghostbusters*** (the ghostbusters operated out of a firehouse in TriBeCa at 14 Moore St.). **Tom's Restaurant** at 112th and Broadway was the hangout for Jerry and his pals on TV's ***Seinfeld***. The **Ed Sullivan Theatre** (Broadway at 53rd St.) holds powerful memories of the days when Sullivan's Sunday-evening variety show presented everyone from Elvis to the Beatles to an Italian mouse puppet named Topo Gigio; today it's home to CBS's ***Late Show with David Letterman***. The 1964 ***Ed Sullivan Show*** that introduced the Beatles to America is the most requested tape at The **Museum of Television and Radio** in Midtown, founded by CBS titan William S. Paley. In addition to the Fab Four, the museum boasts 60,000 television programs and 7,000 vintage radio shows in its stacks, which can be checked out for sampling at custom-built consoles. The museum also mounts displays and organizes special screenings, and has a fun gift shop on its first floor. Out in Queens, near the old-but-still-functioning Kaufman Astoria Studios, is the **American Museum of the Moving Image,** a classily put-together place for movie addicts to indulge themselves. It has a theater, screening room, changing exhibits, complete sets from famous films, and 60,000 pieces of movie memorabilia.

**Way Uptown...** **Harlem** is the vast area north of **Central Park,** stretching from 125th to 168th streets, with Spanish Harlem occupying a lower eastern portion from 96th to 125th streets and Fifth Avenue to the East River. Dutch

farms and roadside taverns were scattered across it in New York's early years, but in the 1890s it was developed as a semi-suburban getaway for affluent whites. By the 1920s black New Yorkers, driven out of Midtown by high rents, moved up (and all but a very small number of whites bailed out). Harlem blossomed thereafter, with jazz spiraling out of clubs like the **Apollo Theatre** (happily, still open), **Small's,** and the **Cotton Club,** where Josephine Baker danced and the floor shows were swank—though, ironically, only white patrons were allowed. Meanwhile, however, poverty spread in Harlem and housing projects rose up; the sixties brought racial protests, crystallized around the mesmerizing figure of Malcolm X. It is a sad fact that most white New Yorkers never venture into Harlem, and can't quite figure out why so many foreign visitors wish to do so. (Most make the trip with an organized tour. I'd suggest **Harlem Your Way Tours Unlimited,** or **Harlem Spirituals, Inc.**). And in truth, most of Harlem is desperately rough. Change is coming, but slowly—Bill Clinton's choice to put his new office on 125th Street is helping things along, spurring real-estate brokers into touting the area as "up and coming." By the time Clinton is elected mayor of New York, it no doubt will be. From the subway stop at 125th Street and Lenox Avenue (also known as Malcolm X Blvd.), Harlem's main commercial drag, the skyline of downtown Manhattan looks like a mirage. The cultural heart of Harlem is the **Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture** (a branch of the New York Public Library, at Lenox Ave. and 135th St.), where you can see the collection of Puerto Rican–born Arturo Alfonso Schomburg (1874–1938). Taught in school that blacks had no history, Schomburg spent his life amassing a library that proves otherwise. Just down the block is the Liberation Bookstore (tel 212/281–4615; 421 Malcolm X Blvd.), a friendly little place; west on 135th is the **Harlem YMCA,** where Harry Belafonte and James Baldwin studied. The **Abyssinian Baptist Church,** on 138th Street between Lenox Avenue and Adam Clayton Powell Jr. Boulevard, is where all the Sunday morning tour groups stop to hear gospel voices raised. **Londel's,** around the corner (tel 212/234–6114; 2620 Frederick Douglas Blvd. on Eighth Ave.), is a good place to stop for soul food before heading on to **Strivers'**

**Row,** actually two rows of fine houses on 138th and 139th streets between Adam Clayton Powell Jr. Boulevard and Eighth Avenue. These are known as the richest blocks in Harlem. In Hamilton Terrace, another high-rent Harlem neighborhood, you'll find **Hamilton Grange,** a yellow frame house that would look at home on Maryland's Eastern Shore. Targeted for relocation for decades now, the city has yet to get around to moving it. Hamilton Grange was briefly the summer home of Alexander Hamilton, first Secretary of the Treasury (Hamilton died just across the Hudson in Weehauken, New Jersey, after ending up on the losing side of a duel with Aaron Burr; Hamilton lives on, however, as the guy on the $10 bill). Born in the West Indies, Hamilton is thought to have been part black, which makes it fitting that this house should be one of Harlem's crown jewels.

**On the waterfront (and on the water)...** There's water, water everywhere around Manhattan, though getting to it can be tricky. The entire island will someday be encircled in a green necklace of parks, but the project is only partly completed. The current state of water access is inconsistent, ranging from the ultramodern, to the genteel, to patches that aren't much more than industrial dumps. The least Manhattan-like spot is the **West 79th Street Boat Basin in Riverside Park**, (1/9 train to 79th, walk toward the West Side Hwy. and then follow the boat basin signs), where there's a casual snack bar that could pass for something on a Key West dock. Manhattanites too hip for land live on the houseboats that bob in the Hudson nearby. The city's biggest boat is docked 30 blocks south. **The Intrepid Sea–Air–Space Museum** occupies a World War II aircraft carrier berthed at the end of West 46th Street; you can climb a gun turret, board a submarine, and marvel that it's possible for 40,000 tons to float. Four blocks south at 42nd is the embarkation point for the **Circle Line Sightseeing Cruises.** The Full Island tour, as its name suggests, will give you every landmark along all 35 miles of the Manhattan waterfront. Snacks and libations will keep your energy up on the 3-hour cruise. If you have the need for speed, you might consider *The Beast*, an oversized speedboat that tears around New York Harbor at 45mph in the summers. The

trip is quick, too: 30 minutes; tickets are only $16. The **New York Water Taxi** will take you from Pier 84 at West 44th Street to stops down the West Side, around the island's tip to Brooklyn, up to Queens, and then turning back again at Gracie Mansion on East 90th Street. There's a lot less gridlock out on the water, and the prices are reasonable compared to landlubber cabs; $4 for one stop, $8 for a one-way ride along the entire route, and $15 to cruise as much as you want within a 24-hour period. The *Lusitania* once docked at the foot of West 23rd Street (C/E train), now the home of the **Chelsea Piers Sports and Entertainment Complex,** lining the Hudson River from piers 59 to 62 (see "Getting Outside"). For a more intense interaction with the water, **Spirit Cruises** leaves from Pier 61 for festive lunch and dinner trips. One pier up at 62 is the dock of ***Bateaux New York,*** the swankiest of the sightseeing boats, featuring three-course meals and guests in fancy attire. It's touristy and the food is just okay, but there's no complaining about the views. For the best Brooklyn views on solid ground, go to the **South Street Seaport** on the East River (2/3/4/5 trains to Fulton St. and walk due east to Water St.). The Seaport is a shrine to all matters nautical, situated at the foot of stone-paved Fulton Street, where the old Fulton Ferry landed from 1814 until 1883, when the Brooklyn Bridge opened. The visitors center for the **South Street Seaport Museum** lies halfway down a row of early-19th-century buildings on the south side of Fulton Street—note their handmade brick, stonework details, and imperfect old glass. The museum encompasses 11 historic seaport blocks of Fulton, Water, Front, and South streets, but above all, a handful of antique ships berthed at Pier 16: the ***Peking***, one of the last big sailing ships ever built; a fishing schooner from 1891; and the ***Ambrose***, a lightship built in 1907. The Seaport's restored **Pier 17** has shops and restaurants more suited to a suburban mall scene than a historic chunk of Manhattan, but the views from the outside decks are inarguably breathtaking. On summer nights there are outdoor concerts with dancers swaying before the shimmering lights. There are lovely Brooklyn Bridge vantage points, below which you can just make out Brooklyn's half of the **Fulton Ferry Landing,** illuminated by the white Christmas lights of the **River Cafe** (see "Dining"). Just north of Pier 17 you'll find the Fulton Fish Market; just

follow the scent for a few yards (at least until the market moves up to a bigger space in the Bronx). If you take the shoreline south, you'll end up at **Battery Park** (N/R train to Whitehall St., 1/9 train to South Ferry, or 4/5 train to Bowling Green). Stand along the water at the island's tip, and you'll feel as if you're perched at the prow of a gigantic ship headed out into New York Harbor. Seagulls cry; vendors sell hot dogs; soft drinks, and souvenirs; and benches line the waterfront. The ferries that leave from the **Staten Island Ferry Terminal**—which sits at the east end of the park, at the foot of Whitehall Street (N/R train to Whitehall or J/M/Z train to Broad St.)—head over the waves to the little community of St. George on Staten Island, passing Governor's Island and the Brooklyn container port. There's an amazing view of Miss Liberty to the west halfway through the ride. The entire round-trip takes 50 minutes, you can buy beer on board, and best of all it's free! The views back toward Manhattan are spectacular, and they're even more dramatic at night, when the water ripples with thousands of Downtown lights. The **World Trade Center's gap** in the West Side skyline is a sobering and poignant part of the view. 9/11 is memorialized by an eternal flame at the north end of Battery Park, in front of Fritz Koenig's sculpture **The Sphere.** Koenig designed The Sphere as a symbol of world peace, and for 30 years it adorned the plaza at the World Trade Center. Battered and abused, but still intact, it was pulled from the rubble and relocated to a spot on the Eisenhower Mall, right where the shoreline would have been in 1625 New Amsterdam. Personal notes, photos, flowers, and works of art have all been left in front of the flame. The spot is right behind the **Netherland Memorial,** a huge flagpole at the terminus of Broadway, near the intersection of State Street and Battery Place. Directly to the west is **Battery Park City,** a complex of offices, hotels, and apartment buildings built on a part of Manhattan Island formed from fill created by the excavation of the World Trade Center foundation in the '60s. Incomparable New York Harbor views from Robert F. Wagner, Jr. Park follow strollers through coves and flowered walkways. Keep walking north along the Hudson past the large open plaza of the **World Financial Center,** and you'll reach the Irish **Hunger Memorial.** Designed by artist Brian Tolle, the memorial features a Famine-era

cottage moved stone-by-stone from Ireland. A path leads you through the cottage and onto a cantilevered patch of heather and clover, a surreal Old-Country oasis above the bustling streets of Downtown.

**Where to pretend you're in a Monet painting...** At almost any time of year, a trip to the **Brooklyn Botanic Garden** is most highly recommended, but when spring comes, what a blooming wonderland this 50-acre park becomes! The Beaux Arts administration building is lined with lily ponds and beds of tulips. Nearby there's a sweet swelling of the earth called "Daffodil Hill." Down the path, a wooden teahouse sits beside a gemlike pond with a bright red **torii** gate near the far shore; this is the landmark Japanese Garden, a favored backdrop for wedding pictures. Then it's on to the cherry esplanade, which blossoms in late April; the Rose Garden hits its prime in June. Recently renovated greenhouses, a renowned collection of fabulously gnarled bonsai, and a nice little al fresco cafe complete the picture. Five times as large, the **New York Botanical Garden** in the Bronx is easy to reach; it's the first stop on Metro North's Harlem division. Enter via the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory, a series of graceful domed glass houses built in 1901 to recall the Great Palm House in England's Kew Gardens. A bit of a hike will take you through a hemlock forest, native plant garden, and rhododendron valley—with perhaps a final stop at the **Old Lorillard Snuff Mill,** built in 1840, where there's a pleasant tea service near waterfalls on the Bronx River.

**Getting high...** Make your way to the **Empire State Building** on Fifth Avenue at 34th Street, occupying the site of two old Astor family mansions. This is, you'll recall, where a big gorilla held, in one gargantuan paw, a delightfully writhing Faye Wray in the 1933 flick ***King Kong***. Get there early because later on the lines wind all the way around the block. Other vantage points in the city require an investment in booze. The **Pen-Top Bar & Terrace** brings the business crowd to the top of the Peninsula Hotel. East and west views make you feel like you own Midtown. Down in Battery Park, **Rise Bar at the Ritz-Carlton** holds court over the Hudson from 14 stories up. On the huge terrace, you can make eye contact with Lady

Liberty and watch the waters of New York Harbor lap up against the Brooklyn skyline. Reservations are accepted; you'll probably want to dress as if you think $13 is a bargain for a martini.

**Utter childishness...** Kids must have a special kind of radar for FAO Schwarz (see "Shopping"); whenever they pass near the renowned toy store (as seen in the movies ***Big*** and ***Home Alone 2***), they've got to go in, entering via a veritable zoo of stuffed animals. There are real zoos in the metropolitan area, too, or rather Wildlife Conservation Centers, recently spared by city budget cuts: the **Central Park Wildlife Conservation Center** at the southeast corner of **Central Park** and, especially for kids, the nearby **Tisch Children's Zoo** (see "Getting Outside"). Brooklyn's **Prospect Park Wildlife Center** has been beautifully renovated with children in mind, and just southeast of it there's a vintage carousel that still works, with dashing horses from Coney Island. The most impressive, of course, is the **Bronx Zoo.** It is something of a schlep from Manhattan, though it can be reached via subway. Four thousand animals live in naturalistic environments spread over 265 acres—younger kids may find it's too much to walk. But they can ride camels, cruise over 38-acre Wild Asia on a monorail, spy on nocturnal animals in the World of Darkness display, and walk through Jungle World, a tropical-rainforest environment. In **Central Park,** marionettes cavort at the **Swedish Cottage Theatre,** and the **Conservatory Garden** (Fifth Ave. and 105th St.) has a delightful statue of Mary and Dickon (from ***The Secret Garden*** by Frances Hodgson Burnett) standing over a lily pond. But frankly, it's the long-extinct creatures at the **American Museum of Natural History** that thrill young ones most. This world-famous repository of fossils, minerals, and anthropological material just refurbished its two spectacular dinosaur halls, which hold wonders like a 65-million-year-old T-Rex skeleton. Adults will be every bit as fascinated as the kids. Mechanized skulls of a Triceratops and Anatotitan demonstrate how the behemoths chewed, and at computerized video **Lifeline Stations** kids can time-travel to three ages when the dinosaurs lived, viewing what their home turf looked like. Downstairs in the Teddy Roosevelt Rotunda there's a five-story-high cast

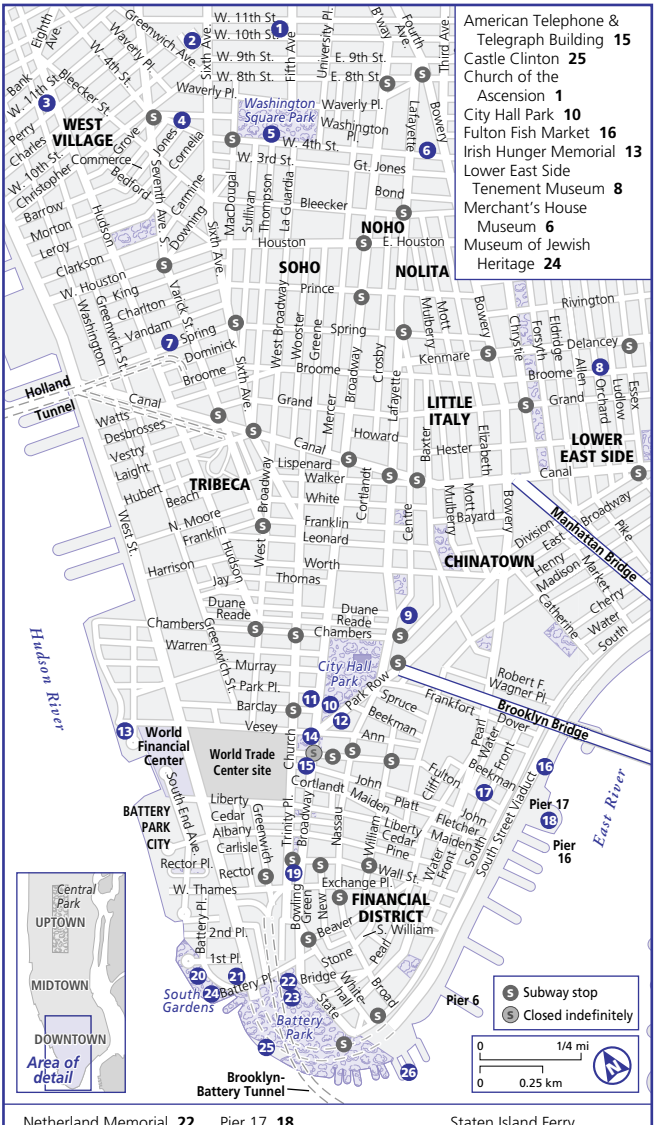
of a Barosaurus. The **Naturemax** theater shows films on a giant IMAX screen. If the kids are stargazers, the new **Rose Center for Earth and Space** on the north side of the Natural History complex should not be missed. Even if you don't go inside the planetarium, it's worth a look from the street. An enormous steel sphere is seemingly suspended inside a glass box, and at night the box glows with an otherworldly blue light.

**Must-sees for second-timers...** Sorry to be prescriptive, but there really are a few must-see sights in New York. Foremost of these is the **Brooklyn Bridge,** designed by John Roebling, whose toes were crushed by a ferryboat while he was surveying along the waterfront. He died of tetanus a few days later, and it was left to his son, George Washington Roebling, to oversee the building of the great bridge. The Brooklyn Bridge lies south of the Williamsburg and Manhattan bridges, closest to the East River's confluence with New York Harbor. A long ramp near City Hall in lower Manhattan provides access to the pedestrian walkway, perhaps the city's finest promenade of all. It will take you less than an hour to cross the bridge, stopping often to take in the exquisite views. When you reach the Brooklyn side, turn right on Cadman Plaza West, and right again on handsome Clark Street to reach the **Brooklyn Heights Promenade,** cantilevered over the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway. Here you can see the great bridge you just traversed, the spires of downtown, and the harbor, in all their splendor. At the very heart of midtown Manhattan lies 21-acre **Rockefeller Center,** a virtual city-within-a-city, composed of 18 office buildings, two shopping concourses, Radio City Music Hall, the Channel Gardens, and the glorious Lower Plaza, where skaters glide beneath a brilliant golden statue of Prometheus and the flags of U.N. member nations fly. The whole sweeping complex was the brainchild of John D. Rockefeller, who built the center during the Great Depression. The Art Deco, 70-story **GE Building,** formerly the home of RCA, fronts on Rockefeller Plaza, which runs between West 48th and 51st streets; this is where the holiday season begins with the raising and lighting of the city's colossal Christmas tree. Down the block, on Sixth Avenue, marvelously sleek and neon-lit **Radio City Music Hall** celebrates the season on

into January with its famous **Christmas Spectacular,** in which cartoon characters romp and the Rockettes kick high. (You can tour both Radio City and the NBC studios in the GE Building, or stop by the information booth at the east entrance of the GE Building to get Rockefeller Center walking tour brochures.) On Fifth Avenue at 82nd Street stands the magnificent **Metropolitan Museum of Art,** the largest museum in the U.S. and the fourth largest in the world: The little aluminum button that proclaims you paid to enter the Met is a true badge of Manhattan. If there's a snowstorm or a hurricane on the way, you might find this museum empty; otherwise, there's always a crowd, even during Friday and Saturday evening hours. Across the park lies the **Rose Center for Earth and Space,** the stunning new-and-improved incarnation of the Hayden Planetarium. With exhibits like the Big Bang Theater and the Cosmic Pathway leading you through billions of years of history, it's hard not to be awestruck. The **United Nations Center,** which presides over the East River between 42nd and 49th streets, remains a striking complex. Tours depart from the north entrance, where there's an excellent gift shop, and a lovely garden wraps around the U.N., with a half-mile esplanade overlooking the East River. **Lincoln Center** (see "Entertainment") lies on a 15-acre site on Columbus Avenue between West 62nd and 65th streets. Opened in 1962, it includes **Avery Fisher Hall,** the home of the New York Philharmonic until 2005; the **Metropolitan Opera House;** the **Vivian Beaumont and Mitzi E. Newhouse Theatres;** and the **New York State Theatre,** home to the New York City Ballet and School of American Ballet (see "Entertainment"). Catching a performance at one of these beauty spots is well-nigh mandatory; even when the major companies are on break, artistic activity never lulls. Even if you don't get a ticket for a performance, stroll through the wide plaza, where there's a cafe and a reflecting pool surrounding a statue by Henry Moore. At dusk, as well-dressed crowds swarm towards brightly lit lobbies, it's magical indeed.

# Map 12: Downtown Diversions



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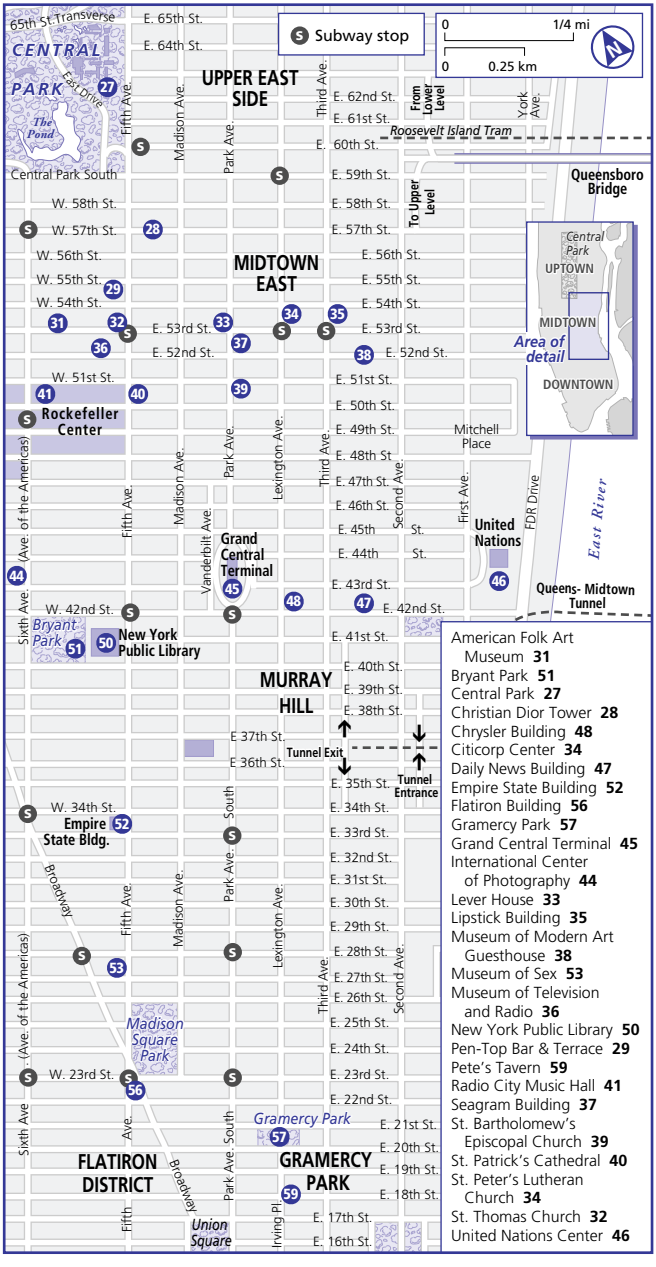
# Map 13: Midtown West Diversions

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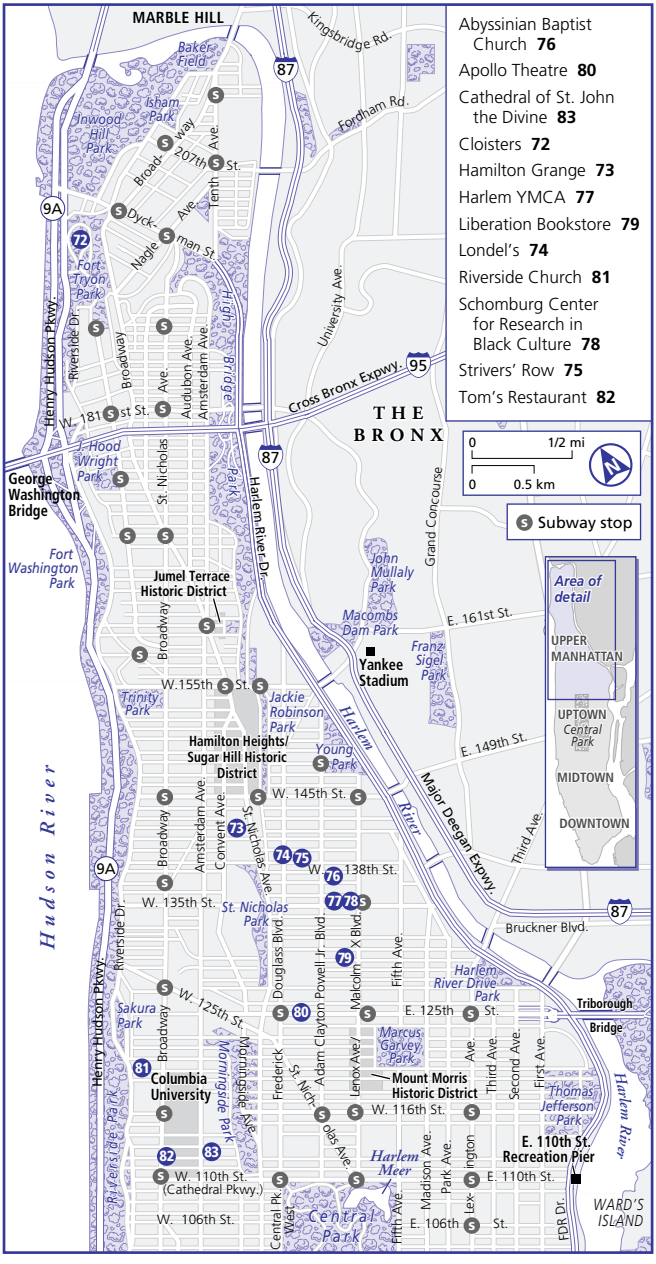
# Map 14: Harlem & Upper Manhattan Diversions



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- Tom's Restaurant **82**

# The Index



**Abyssinian Baptist Church (p. 130)** HARLEM Everybody's favorite Sunday morning gospel service up in Harlem.... *Tel 212/862-7474. www.abyssinian.org. 132 W. 138th St., between Adam Clayton Powell Blvd. and Lenox Ave. 2/3/B/C trains to 135th, S1 train to 137th St. Sun service at 9am and 11am. Donation suggested.*

**See Map 14 on p. 140, bullet 76.**

**American Folk Art Museum (p. 117)** MIDTOWN WEST Oddball autodidacts get their 15 minutes in this chic new museum.... *Tel 212/265-1040. www.folkartmuseum.org. 45 W. 53rd St. between 5th and 6th aves. E/V trains to 5th Ave./53rd St. Open Tue–Sat 10am–6pm, Fri 10am–8pm. Admission charged (free Fri after 6pm).*

**See Map 13 on p. 139, bullet 31.**

**American Museum of Natural History (p. 135)** UPPER WEST SIDE The last word in rocks, fish, mammals, birds, and bones—plus not to mention knock-out dinos.... *Tel 212/769-5100. www.amnh.org. Central Park W. at 79th St. B/C trains to 81st St. or 1/9 trains to 79th St. 1/2 train to 81st St. Open Sun–Thurs 10am–5:45pm, Fri–Sat 10am–8:45pm. Donation suggested.*

**See Map 11 on p. 110, bullet 65.**

**American Museum of the Moving Image (p. 129)** ASTORIA, QUEENS This museum all about the movies is a perfect pick for flick fans, located on the site of Paramount Pictures' original New York home.... *Tel 718/784-0077. www.ammi.org. 35th Ave. at 31st. 36th St., Astoria, Queens, R train to Steinway St. Open Tues–Fri noon–5pm, Sat–Sun 11am–6pm; evening screenings Sat–Sun at 6:30pm. Admission charged.*

**Apollo Theatre (p. 130)** HARLEM The Harlem Jazz Age landmark, reopened in 1978, with popular amateur nights on Wed.... *Tel 212/749-5838. 253 W. 125th St. between Adam Clayton Powell and Frederick Douglass blvds. 1/9 trains to 125th St. Call for schedule. Admission charged.*

**See Map 14 on p. 140, bullet 80.**

**Bateaux New York (p. 132)** CHELSEA Brunch and dinner cruises on a glass-topped yacht.... *Tel 212/352-2022. www.bateauxnewyork.com. Pier 621 at Chelsea Piers. C/E trains to 23rd St. Call for schedule. Admission charged.*

**The Beast (p. 131)** MIDTOWN WEST Hell rides around the Hudson in a jumbo motorboat, leaving every hour on the hour.... *Tel 212/563-3200. Pier 83 at W. 42nd St. N/R/Q/W/1/2/3/7/9 to Times Square or A/C/E trains to 42nd St./Port Authority. Call for schedule. Admission charged.*

**Bronx Zoo (p. 135)** BRONX Largest city zoo in the U.S.... *Tel 718/367-1010. www.wcs.org/zoos. 185th St. and Southern Blvd. 2 train to Pelham Pkwy., Metro North to Fordham Rd. (then Bx9 bus), or BxM11 Liberty Line bus (tel 212/652-8400). Open daily 10am–5pm, Nov–Mar daily 10am–4:30pm (extended hours for Holiday Lights late Nov–early Jan). Admission charged (pay what you wish Wed).*

**Brooklyn Botanic Garden (p. 134)** BROOKLYN 50 acres of flora in the heart of Brooklyn.... *Tel 718/623-7200. www.bbg.org. 1000 Washington Ave. Q train to Prospect Park or 2/3 trains to Eastern Pkwy./Brooklyn Museum. Open Tues–Fri 8am–6pm, Sat–Sun 10am–6pm, Oct–Mar closes at 4:30pm. Admission charged (free Tue and Sat 10am–noon year round, and Wed–Fri in winter).*

**Castle Clinton National Monument (p. 120)** BATTERY PARK A fort, then immigrant processing center, occasionally a music hall—but now mostly a historical museum and ticket booth for Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island trips. Temporarily closed at the time this book went to press; call for updated info.... *Tel 212/344-7220. www.nps.gov/cacl. Battery Park at Broadway. 1/9 train trains to South Ferry or N/R trains to Whitehall St. Open daily 9am–5pm, closed Jan–Feb. Admission free.*

**See Map 12 on p. 138, bullet 25.**

**Central Park (p. 129, 135)** CENTRAL PARK 840 green acres in the heart of Manhattan; the visitors center is at the Dairy, midpark at 65th St.... *Tel 212/794-6564. www.centralpark.org or www.centralparknyc.org. For information on park events and walking tours, call 800/201-PARK.*

**See Map 15 on p. 152, in Getting Outside.**

**Central Park Wildlife Conservation Center (p. 135)** CENTRAL PARK Beautiful though small zoo right in Central Park.... *Tel 212/861-6030. www.wcs.org/zoos. 5th Ave. at 64th St. N/R/W trains to 5th Ave. Open Mon–Fri 10am–4:30pm, Sat–Sun 10:30am–5:30pm. Admission charged.*

**See Map 15 on p. 153, bullet 1.**

**Chelsea Screamer** Tours of the harbor aboard a high-power speedboat.... *Tel 212/924–6262. Pier 62 at Chelsea Piers. E train to 23rd St. Call for schedule. Admission charged.*

**See Map 11 on p. 110, bullet 58.**

**Circle Line Sightseeing Cruises (p. 131)** MIDTOWN WEST Circumnavigations of the island of Manhattan, a city classic. If you don't have time for the full Circle, there's the Semi-Circle cruise.... *Tel 212/563-3200. Pier 83 at W. 42nd St. N/R/Q/W/1/2/3/7/9 to Times Square or A/C/E trains to 42nd St./Port Authority. Also Pier 16 at South St. Seaport, 207 Front St. J/M/Z/2/3/4/5 trains to Fulton St. Call for schedule. Admission charged.*

**See Map 11 on p. 110, bullet 49.**

**The Cloisters (p. 116)** INWOOD A Middle Ages miracle at the north end of Manhattan, housing the Metropolitan Museum of Art's medieval art collection of cloisters and other medieval treasures.... *Tel 212/923-3700. www.metmuseum.org. Fort Tryon Park. A train to 190th St. Open Mar–Oct Tues–Sun 9:30am–5:15pm, Nov–Apr 9:30am–4:45pm. Admission charged.*

**See Map 14 on p. 140, bullet 72.**

**Edgar Allan Poe Cottage (p. 122)** BRONX The happy-go-lucky writer's country home, nestled into a little valley between Bronx housing projects. The interior has period furnishings and Poe memorabilia.... *Tel 718/881-8900. www.bronxhistoricalsociety.org. 2460 Grand Concourse. D/4 trains to Kingsbridge Rd. Open Sat 10am–4pm, Sun 1–5pm. Admission charged.*

**Ellis Island Immigration Museum—The Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island (p. 120)** ATLANTIC OCEAN Reached by ferries that depart from Battery Park and Liberty Park in New Jersey. Temporarily closed at the time this book went to press; call for updated info.... *Tel 212/363-3200885-1986; ferry information 212/269-5755. www.nps.gov/elis or. Open daily 9am–5pm (until 7pm in summer); ferries leave Manhattan 9am–3:30pm. Admission charged.*

**Empire State Building (p. 123, 134)** MIDTOWN EAST Glassed-in observation deck on the 102nd floor, open-air on the 86th.... *Tel 212/736–3100. www.esbnyc.com. 350 5th Ave. and at 34th St. 6 train to 33rd St. or B/D/F/N/R/Q/S/V/W trains to 34th St. Open daily 9:30am–midnight. Admission charged.*

**See Map 13 on p. 139, bullet 52.**

**Frick Collection (p. 117)** UPPER EAST SIDE A turn-of-the-century 1914 palace on 5th Ave. containing gems by the likes of Gainsborough, Turner, Titian, and Whistler.... *Tel 212/288-0700. 1 E. 70th St. 6 train to 68th St. Open Tues–Sat 10am–6pm, Sun 1–6pm. Admission charged.*

**See Map 11 on p. 110, bullet 70.**

**Gagosian Gallery (p. 119)** CHELSEA West Chelsea superstar representing the biggest names in contemporary art.... *Tel 212/741-1111. 555 W. 24th St. C/E trains to 23rd St. Call for schedule. Admission free.*

**See Map 11 on p. 110, bullet 54.**

**Guggenheim Museum (p. 118)** UPPER EAST SIDE Frank Lloyd Wright's ziggurat, marvelous special exhibits, and lots of contemporary old favorites augment overly accessible temporary exhibits.... *Tel 212/423-3500. 1071 5th Ave. 4/5/6 trains to 86th St. Open Sat–Wed 10am–5:45pm, Fri 10am–8pm, closed Thurs. Admission charged (pay what you wish after 6pm on Fri).*

**See Map 11 on p. 110, bullet 62.**

**Hamilton Grange National Memorial (p. 131)** HARLEM A fine yellow clapboard house once occupied by Alexander Hamilton, in the distinguished Hamilton Terrace neighborhood of Harlem.... *Tel 212/283-5154666-1640. www.nps.gov/hagr/index.htm. 287 Convent Ave. A/B/C/D trains to 145th St. Open Fri–Sun 9am–5pm. Admission free.*

**See Map 14 on p. 140, bullet 73.**

**Harlem Spirituals, Inc. (p. 130)** HARLEM Gospel, jazz, soul food, and sightseeing tours up in Harlem.... *Tel 212/391-0900. 690 8th Ave. A/C/E or 7 trains to Port Authority/42nd St. Times Square subway stop. Call for schedule. Admission charged.*

**Harlem Your Way Tours Unlimited (p. 130)** HARLEM Walking tours of Harlem, meeting at a turn-of-the-century row house.... *Tel 212/690-1687. harlemyourwaytours.com. 129 W. 130th St. 1 train to 125th St. Call for schedule. Admission charged.*

**International Center of Photography (p. 118)** MIDTOWN WEST Rotating photographic exhibits and an interesting permanent collection.... *Tel 212/857-0000. www.icp.org. 1133 6th Ave. B/D/F/V trains to 42nd St. Open Tues–Thurs 10am–5pm, Fri 10am–8pm, Sat–Sun 10am–6pm, closed Mon. Admission charged.*

**See Map 13 on p. 139, bullet 44.**

**Intrepid Sea–Air–Space Museum (p. 131)** MIDTOWN WEST A great World War II aircraft carrier displays its gun turrets, batteries, hangers, and fighter bombers.... *Tel 212/245-0072. Pier 86, W. 46th St. at 12th Ave. N/R/Q/W/1/2/3/7/9 to Times Square or A/C/E trains to 42nd St./Port Authority. Open Apr–Sept Mon–Fri 10am–5pm, Sat–Sun 10am–6pm; Oct–Mar Tues–Sun 10am–5pm, closed Mon. Admission charged.*

**See Map 11 on p. 110, bullet 42.**

**Lower East Side Tenement Museum (p. 121)** LOWER EAST SIDE An immigrant walk-up displaying life as poor ethnic New York lived it at the turn of the century.... *Tel 212/431-0233.*

*90 Orchard St. F train to Delancey St. or F/J/M/Z trains to Essex St. Open Fri–Wed 11am–5:30pm, Thurs 11am–6pm. Admission charged.*

**See Map 12 on p. 138, bullet 8.**

**Merchant's House Museum (p. 122)** NOHO A New York miracle; the interior decorating hasn't been updated in this Greek-Revival row house for almost a century and a half.... *Tel 212/77-1089. 29 E. 4th St. F/V trains to Broadway/Lafayette, 6 train to Bleecker St. Open Thurs–Mon 1–5pm. Admission charged.*

**See Map 12 on p. 138, bullet 6.**

**Metropolitan Museum of Art (p. 115, 118, 137)** UPPER EAST SIDE Try not to be overwhelmed: You could spend your entire visit here and not see half the treasures. The big house, in terms of NYC art.... *Tel 212/535-7710. 5th Ave. at 82nd St. 4/5/6 trains to 86th St. Open Tues–Thurs 9:30am–5:15pm, Fri–Sat 9:30am–8:45pm, closed Mon. Admission charged.*

**See Map 11 on p. 110, bullet 63.**

**Museum of Jewish Heritage: A Living Memorial to the Holocaust (p. 118, 121)** BATTERY PARK One of Manhattan's newest museums, and its most moving.... *Tel 212/509-6130. 18 First Place, at West St. and Battery Place. 4/5 trains to Bowling Green. Open Sun–Wed 9am–5:45pm, Thurs 9am–8pm, Fri 9am–5pm, closed Saturday. Admission charged.*

**See Map 12 on p. 138, bullet 24.**

**Museum of Modern Art (MoMA QNS) (p. 118, 125)** LONG ISLAND CITY, QUEENS MoMA QNS is the place while the 53rd St. mother ship undergoes renovation. The temporary space in Queens isn't all that inspiring and it's a schlep, but if the temporary exhibit grabs you, get your butt on the train.... *Tel 212/708-9400. 45-20 33rd St., Long Island City, Queens. 7 train to 33rd St. Open Sat–Mon, Thurs 10am–5pm, Fri 10:30am–7:45pm, closed Tues, Wed. Admission charged.*

**Museum of Sex (p. 120)** MIDTOWN EAST Everything you always wanted to know, in vitrines and videos.... *Tel 866/667-3969. 233 5th Ave. N/R trains to 28th St. Open Mon, Tue, Thurs, Fri 11am–6:30pm, Sat 10am–9pm, Sun 10am–6pm, closed Wed. Admission charged.*

**See Map 13 on p. 139, bullet 53.**

**Museum of Television and Radio (p. 129)** MIDTOWN WEST Displays and thousands of vintage shows on tape.... *Tel 212/621-6800. 25 W. 52nd St. E/F V train trains to 53rd St/5th Ave. Open daily noon–6pm (until 8pm Thurs), closed Mon. Admission charged.*

**See Map 13 on p. 139, bullet 36.**

**Museum of the City of New York** (p. 119) UPPER EAST SIDE Famed NYC interiors, vintage firefighting equipment, toys, theatrical memorabilia, and more.... *Tel 212/534-1672. 5th Ave. at 103rd St. 6 train to 103rd St. Open Wed–Sat 10am–5pm, Sun noon–5pm, closed Mon, Tues. Admission charged.*

**See Map 11 on p. 110, bullet 61.**

**New York Botanical Garden** (p. 134) BRONX 250-acre botanical park and renowned horticultural research center.... *Tel 718/817-8700. 2100th St. and Southern Blvd., the Bronx. Metro North from Grand Central to Botanical Gardens station. Open Tues–Sun and Mon holidays Apr–Oct 10am–6pm, Nov–Mar 10am–5pm. Admission charged.*

**New York City Fire Museum** (p. 120) SOHO FDNY Engine Co. 30's former home. The most recent history is the most resonant.... *Tel 212/691-1303. www.nycfiremuseum.org. 278 Spring St. C/E trains to Spring St. Open Tues–Sat 10am–5pm, Sun 10am–4pm. Admission charged.*

**See Map 12 on p. 138, bullet 7.**

**The New-York Historical Society** (p. 119) UPPER WEST SIDE Americana and New York arcana in recently renovated West Side digs.... *Tel 212/873-3400. 2 W. 77th St. B/C trains to 81st St. Open Tues–Sun 11am–6pm. Admission charged.*

**See Map 11 on p. 110, bullet 68.**

**New York Public Library** (p. 124, 129) MIDTOWN EAST The great research library on Fifth Ave., where you read "between the lions".... *Tel 212-340-8033. www.nypl.org. Fifth Ave. at 41st St. B/D/F/V trains to 42nd St. Open Thurs–Sat 10am–6pm, Tues–Wed 11am–7:30pm. Admission free.*

**See Map 13 on p. 139, bullet 50.**

**New York Water Taxi** (p. 132) VARIOUS Hail that boat! Making scheduled stops around Manhattan and over to Brooklyn and Queens. Ride at dusk on the upper deck for breathtaking views.... *Tel 212/742-1969. Various stops. Call for schedule. Admission charged.*

**P.S. 1 Contemporary Art Center** (p. 117) LONG ISLAND CITY, QUEENS School's out but art is in at this MoMA-affiliated museum. Great Renaissance Revival building, well worth the quick trip from Midtown.... *Tel 718/784-2084. 22–25 Jackson Ave., Long Island City, Queens. E/V trains to 23rd St./Ely Ave. or 7 train to 45th Rd./Court House Sq. Open Thurs–Mon noon–6pm. Admission charged.*

**Pen-Top Bar & Terrace** (p. 134) MIDTOWN EAST Rub elbows with the professional set while taking in the incomparable Manhattan skyline.... *Tel 212/903-3097. fasttrack.newyork.peninsula.com/*

*restaurants.html. The Peninsula Hotel. 700 Fifth Ave. E/V trains to 53rd St./5th Ave.*

**See Map 13 on p. 139, bullet 29.**

**Prospect Park (p. 135)** PARK SLOPE, BROOKLYN Olmsted and Vaux's big Brooklyn park, and a real beauty.... *Tel 718/965-8999. Bounded by Eastern Pkwy., Flatbush Ave., Parkside Ave., and Prospect Park W. 2/3 trains to Grand Army Plaza, F train to 15th St./Prospect Park, or Q/S train to Prospect Park.*

**Prospect Park Wildlife Center (p. 135)** PARK SLOPE, BROOKLYN A children's zoo grows in Brooklyn.... *Tel 718/399-7339. www.prospectpark.org. Prospect Park, Willink Entrance (off Flatbush Ave.). Q/S train to Prospect Park. Open Mon–Fri 10am–5pm, Sat–Sun 10am–5:30pm, closes 4:30pm Nov–Mar. Admission charged.*

**Queens Museum of Art (p. 117)** FLUSHING, QUEENS Temporary exhibits and a permanent collection, but the real fun is the 100%-complete scaled-down model of NYC.... *Tel 718/592-9700. Flushing Meadows-Corona Park, Queens. 7 train to Willets Point/Shea Stadium, follow signs through the park. Open Tues–Fri 10am–5pm, Sat–Sun noon–5pm. Donation suggested.*

**Radio City Music Hall (p. 136)** MIDTOWN EAST 6,000 seats, gorgeous Art Deco flourishes, and the Rockettes. Tours available.... *Tel 212/247-4777. www.rockefellercenter.com. 1260 6th Ave., B/D/F/V trains to Rockefeller Center. Call for schedule. Admission charged.*

**See Map 13 on p. 139, bullet 41.**

**Rise Bar at the Ritz-Carlton Battery Park (p. 134)** BATTERY PARK Hotel bar apotheosis, high above the Hudson.... Tel 212/344-0800. www.ritzcarlton.com/hotels/new_york_battery_park. 2 West St., 14th Floor. 4/5 trains to Bowling Green.

**Rose Center for Earth and Space (p. 136, 137)** UPPER WEST SIDE The glorious new incarnation of the old Hayden Planetarium, with one technologically innovative display after another.... *Tel 212/769-5200. www.amnh.org. 81st St. at Central Park W. B/C trains to 81st St. or 1,9 trains to 79th St. Open daily 10am–5:45pm (until 8:45pm Fri). Admission charged.*

**See Map 11 on p. 110, bullet 64.**

**Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture (p. 130)** HARLEM Programs, exhibitions, and library facilities for scholars—all on black history and culture.... *Tel 212/491-2200. www.nypl.org. 515 Malcolm X Blvd. (Lenox Ave.). 2/3 trains to 135th St. Open Tues–Sat 10am–6pm. Admission free.*

**See Map 14 on p. 140, bullet 78.**

**South Street Seaport (p. 132)** DOWNTOWN Historic ships to tour, antique buildings to stroll by, cobblestones beneath your feet.... *Tel 212/748-8600. www.southstseaport.org or www.southstreetseaport.com. 12 Fulton St. 1/2/3/4/5/J/M/Z trains to Fulton St. Open daily Apr–Sep 10am–6pm (until 8pm Thurs), Oct–Mar 10am–5pm, closed Tues. Admission charged.*

**Spirit Cruises (p. 132)** CHELSEA Lunch, brunch, cocktail, dinner, and moonlight cruises around the island; somewhat more intimate than the Circle Line.... *Tel 866/211-3805. Pier 61 in Chelsea. C/E trains to W. 23rd St. Call for schedule. Admission charged.*

**Statue of Liberty (p. 120)** See Ellis Island Immigration Museum, above.... *www.nps.gov/stli or www.statueoflibertyferry.com.*

**Swedish Cottage Theatre (p. 135)** CENTRAL PARK Marionette theater in Central Park.... *Tel 212/988-9093. www.wcs.org/zoos. Midpark at 81st St. B/C trains to 81st St. Performances Tues–Fri 10:30am or noon, Sat noon or 3pm. Reservations required. Call for schedule. Admission charged.*

**See Map 11 on p. 110, bullet 66.**

**Tisch Children's Zoo in Central Park (p. 135)** CENTRAL PARK It's child-friendly, it's environmentally correct, and it's great fun.... *Tel 212/861-6030. 5th Ave. at 64th St. N/R/W trains to 5th Ave. Open daily Mon–Fri 10am–5pm, Sat–Sun 10:30am–4:30pm. Admission charged.*

**United Nations Center (p. 137)** MIDTOWN EAST Le Corbusier's Secretariat and General Assembly buildings, overlooking the East River. Tours available.... *Tel 212/963-8687. 1st Ave. between 42nd and 48th sts. 4/5/6/7/S trains to Grand Central. Open daily 9:30am–4:45pm. Admission charged for tours.*

**See Map 13 on p. 139, bullet 46.**

**West 79th Street Boat Basin Café (p. 131)** UPPER WEST SIDE Beer in plastic cups and the always-reassuring sight of boats bobbing on water.... *Tel 212/496-5542. www.boatbasincafe.com. 79th Street at the Hudson River. 1/9 trains to 79th St. Call for schedule.*

**See Map 11 on p. 110, bullet 67.**

**Whitney Museum of American Art (p. 118)** UPPER EAST SIDE Contemporary American specialist. The basement holds a likeable cafe.... *Tel 212/570-3676. 945 Madison Ave. 6 train to 77th St. Open Tues–Thurs, Fri 1–9pm, Sat–Sun 11am–6pm. Admission charged (pay what you wish after 6pm on Fri).*

**See Map 11 on p. 110, bullet 69.**

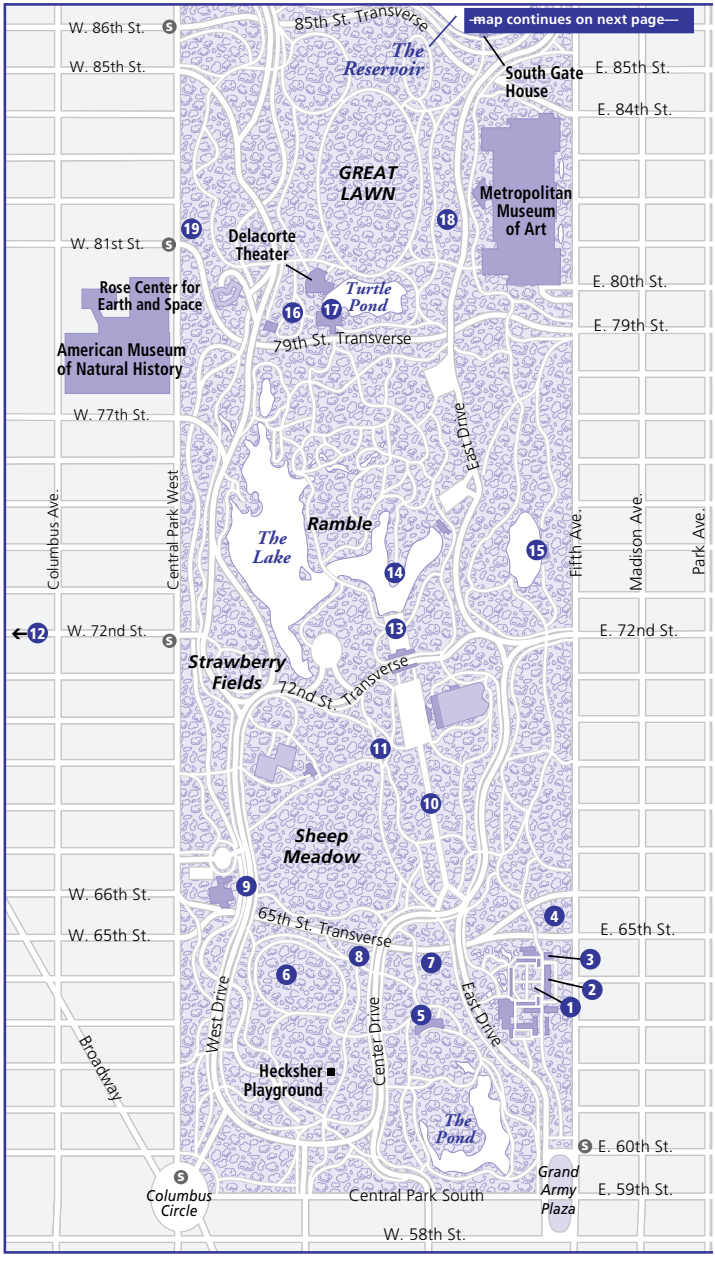
GETTING

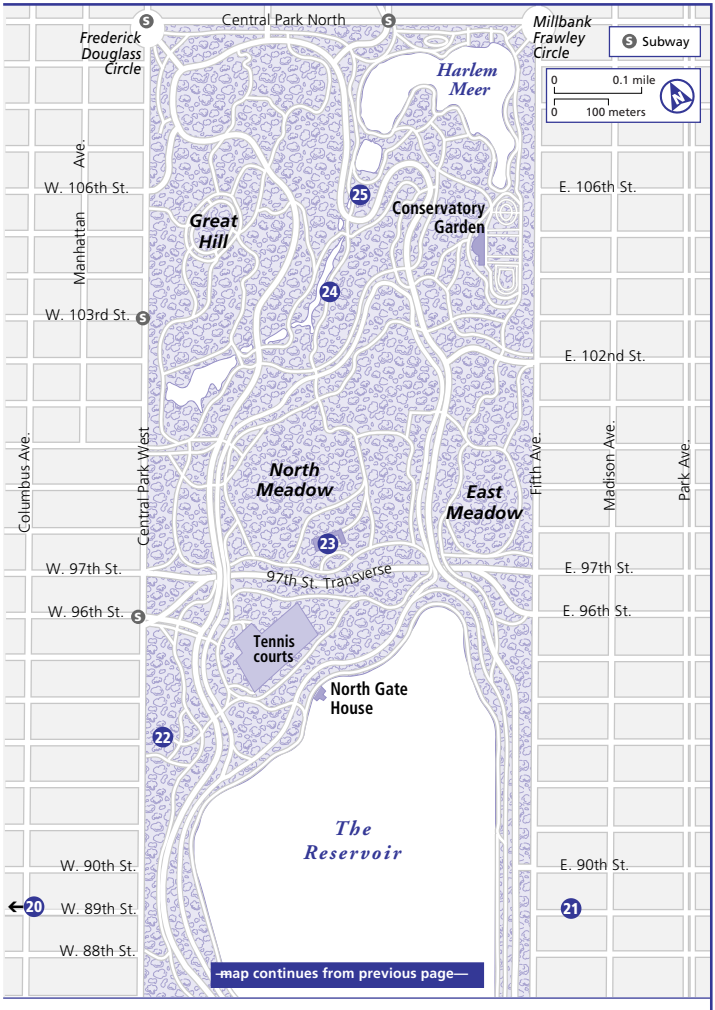
# OUTSIDE

# 4

# Map 15: Getting Outside in Central Park








The Arsenal **2**
Belvedere Castle **17**
Bethesda Fountain **13**
Blades **12**
The Carousel **8**
Central Park Wildlife Conservation Center **1**
Claremont Riding Academy **20**
Conservatory Water **15**
The Dairy **7**
Delacorte Clock **3**
Diana Ross Playground **19**
Heckscher Ball Fields **6**
Lasker Rink **25**
Loeb Boathouse **14**
The Mall **10**
New York Road Runner's Club **21**
North Meadow Recreation Center **23**
The Obelisk (Cleopatra's Needle) **18**
The Ravine **24**
Roller skating disco **11**
Rustic Playground **4**
Shakespeare Garden **16**
Slalom course **10**
Tisch Children's Zoo **1**
Wild West Playground **22**
Wollman Memorial Rink **5**

There's more of Manhattan to love these days. An amazing *550 acres* of new parkland opened along the lower Hudson River in 2003. Alongside the old piers, slender blades of a green vegetation called "grass" (something that downtowners don't have much experience with) have sprouted, mingling with other odd organic forms apparently known as "flowers" and "trees." Being New York, it probably won't be long before every flat surface is covered in stickers, graffiti, and miscellaneous filth, but for a few months at least there's block after block of pristine waterfront. A riverside path accommodates a steady stream of joggers, bikers, and bladers. There are walkers, too; many New Yorkers supplement (or substitute for) gym routines with tenement stair climbs and long strolls through the city. Just trying to keep up with the average Manhattan stride may be plenty of an aerobic workout. If not, in addition to the new Hudson River Park, the legendary Central Park has space aplenty for pick-up softball games, running, cycling, and even exercise of the roller-disco variety (all pursued with hyperintensity, of course). If your taste in sports leans to the more exotic, go to the right neighborhood and you can probably find company for a game of cricket, pétanque, or hurley. If you want to elevate your heart rate without flipping to the "Nightlife" chapter, New York has more green than ever, enough to make you occasionally forget you're visiting the ultimate concrete jungle.

# The Lowdown

**Born to run...** When most people think of running in New York City, they think of a commuter chasing after the closing doors on a subway train. The extraordinary popularity of the New York City Marathon every November is a testament to New Yorkers' penchant for other forms of running, pursued in heavy traffic; in fair or foul weather; on hard, uneven surfaces; and despite never-ending streetside diversions. Serious runners join the **New York Road Runner's Club** (tel 212/860–4455), which sponsors a **Central Park Safety Patrol,** a year-long schedule of races, clinics in all five boroughs (including marathon prep and a New Year's Eve run), and more loosely organized Central Park runs at 6:30pm weekdays and at 10am on weekends (meet at club headquarters, 9 E. 89th St., a block from the 90th St. entrance to Central Park; take the 4, 5, or 6 train

to 86th St., or just run over there). Central Park is a great place to pretend you're training for the marathon. If you like to mark your progress, the **Outer Loop** of the park's circular drive is 7.02 miles, the **Middle Loop** 4.04 miles (enter the park at 72nd St. and follow the drive around the south end of the park), and the soft-surface path around the reservoir, 1.57 miles. There's safety in numbers and generally you'll have plenty of good company, but at odd hours and late nights the park can get a little creepy. I'd steer clear of the Ramble and remote sections way uptown on anything but sunny weekend afternoons. Unaccompanied women should run at peak times and stay on the path. Someday the Hudson River greenbelt will snake up from the Battery all the way to the state capitol in Albany and beyond, but for now we'll take the completed portion, a lovely new path that follows the river from New York Harbor through 59th Street. A few blocks farther up at 72nd Street is **Riverside Park,** 4 miles of knock-out Hudson views; there's also a quarter-mile asphalt track near the 72nd Street entrance (go through the arch under the West Side Hwy., and you'll see the track at the bottom of the ramp). A jogging path along the **East River** can be caught near Sutton Place (63rd St. and the FDR) and followed all the way north to the mayor's digs at Gracie Mansion. Out in Brooklyn's **Prospect Park** (take the 2 or 3 subway train to Grand Army Plaza) are rolling emerald lawns designed by the same 19th-century team who laid out Central Park. A 3.5-mile interior circuit passes shady woods, Revolutionary War battle sites, and a colony of swans on the Lullwater.

**A bicycle built for one...** Bikes can be rented for cruises through Central Park at the **Loeb Boathouse** (near East 74th St., tel 212/517-2233), but you'll get equipment in better condition from **Metro Bicycles** (midtown shop at 360 W. 47th St., tel 212/581-4500, and six other locations around town). To cruise the Hudson for $9 an hour, City Bikes has two riverside locations (Pier 84 at West 44th and Pier 26 downtown at North Moore). Wear a helmet, ride on the right with traffic, clearly claim space in a lane as opposed to riding on the side of the street where you can get hammered by opening car doors—and watch out for taxis and pedestrians. Most of the running paths mentioned

above, with the exception of the reservoir in Central Park, are fine for reasonably carefree biking. But for some wild and woolly urban treks, cross the East River on the **Brooklyn Bridge bike lane,** a steep but scenic 1-miler; catch the bike lane just north of South Street Seaport that leads through parking lots **under the FDR Drive** and some monster puddles; or take the aerial tramway at East 60th Street to Roosevelt Island and then bike through **Lighthouse Park,** watching for speed bumps as you go. If you've got several hours, take a tour to the outer boroughs—or at least Brooklyn. To celebrate the Williamsburg Bridge's centennial, the city recently cut the ribbon on a beautiful new path that connects Brooklyn and the Lower East Side, with stunning East River views along the way. From Manhattan, enter on the east end of Delancey Street. Farther south you can cruise the city's oldest dedicated bicycle path, which accompanies **Ocean Parkway** from Prospect Park's Church Avenue entrance (near the F and Q Church Ave. stops) all the way to the Atlantic Ocean, at Coney Island. It's okay to take bicycles on the subway, but the MTA asks you to avoid rush hours because there just isn't enough space. You'll need a pass for trips farther afield on New Jersey Transit and the Long Island and Metro North railroads. The **New York Cycle Club** (tel 212/828–5711) sponsors group rides and training clinics, while the **Century Road Club Association** (tel 212/222–8062) is particularly keen on racing. The **Central Park Bicycle Tour** (tel 212/541-8759) includes bike rental in the cost of a 2–hour escorted cruise around the park.

**Pounding the pavement...** With a little imagination, you can make an urban hike in Manhattan feel like climbing a mountain, the scenery shifting with every rise in elevation. I love to take on huge swathes of Broadway, watching as the stores and styles evolve every 20 blocks or so. Starting at the Battery (the 1, 9 at South Ferry or the N, R to Whitehall), climb your way north through Downtown, TriBeCa, and Chinatown. By the time you reach Soho and Noho, you'll be on a catwalk for the latest fashions. Rest your weary feet in Union Square, and then onward past the Flatiron, Herald Square, Times Square, and up to the

Upper West Side. At 59th Street you can deviate into Central Park, lay down in the grass, and swear off walking forever (you'll have been at it for almost 2 hours by then). If there's gas left in the tank, however, the Broadway sights keep going, past the stately apartment buildings of the Upper West Side, up to Columbia College, and on through Harlem and Washington Heights. A great thing about urban mountaineering is that you don't need to lug trail-mix or water bottles because you're never more than a few feet from a deli's supply (and if you overdo it you can get your own brandy, no need to wait for the next sympathetic St. Bernard to come along). Other north-south avenues can be as intriguing as Broadway, though both people and wares tend to be more interesting away from the more staid central sections. Take any long segment of First or Second Avenue, or Sixth, Seventh, or Eighth, and you'll understand why we New Yorkers put up with the noise, the filth, and the sixth-floor walk-up with the bathroom in the kitchen.



**Street walkers...** If you want to be led by the hand as you walk, not to mention edified by a trivia-nut tour guide (these folks could score big on *Jeopardy!*), check out the walking tours offered by the **92nd Street Y** (1395 Lexington Ave., tel 212/415-5500), which include such pleasures as Staten Island ferryboat rides, picnic hikes along the Old Croton Aqueduct Trailway, and brunch tours of Battery Park City. **I'll Take Manhattan Walking Tours** (tel 732/270-5277) offers weekend walking tours of historic districts like Greenwich Village, Chinatown, Soho, and Little Italy; call for a schedule. **The Municipal Art Society** (tel 212/935-3960) leads some fascinating tours, too, including one of Grand Central Station every Wednesday at 12:30, meeting at the east end of the main concourse (admission is free, but a hat is passed afterward). The **Urban Park Rangers** (tel 800/201-PARK [7275]) know the city's parks like the backs of their hands and take groups for jaunts absolutely free of charge. To be a **Big Onion Walking Tours** (tel 212/439-1090) guide, you need an advanced degree in American history and major enthusiasm for the city. Big Onion subjects range from "Gangs of New York" to the foods of the Lower East Side (think pickles, herring, and dim sum).

**For the birds...** Central Park turns out not to be just essential for New Yorkers' well-being, but it's pretty crucial for our feathered friends as well. Manhattan's little patches of green are key stopover points on a major North American flyway. Bring a pair of binoculars so you can watch the avian action in Central Park's prime tree maze, the **Ramble,** where the **New York Audubon Society** (tel 212/691-7483) organizes early-morning birdwatches in the spring and fall. If Uptown birds are your preference, take the upper promenade in **Riverside Park** between West 114th and West 120th streets for more bird sightings, including a resident red-tailed hawk in the densely wooded sanctuary below. Wednesdays and Thursdays in autumn, the Battery Park City Parks Conservancy hosts free bird walks through Robert F. Wagner, Jr. Park. Binoculars and field guides are available for borrowing. New York City is also home to 70% of the state's breeding peregrine falcon population. The falcons nest atop bridges and skyscrapers, in boxes placed there by officials hoping the predators will keep down the local pigeon population; there's one pair that hunts pigeons and blue jays on the grounds of the New York Public Library on 42nd Street and Fifth Avenue.

### Tour Time

*Whenever the Brits sell off one of their trademark bright red double-decker buses as surplus, some shrewd operator buys it, cuts the roof off the upper deck, and puts the smelly, lumbering result into service on the streets of New York. Of the many double-decker companies operating out of Times Square,* ***Gray Line New York Tours*** *(tel 800/669-0051) has the most knowledgeable guides and the most flexible schedule of tours. The night tour is ideal for peeping into second-story windows. If you like a dash of reality with your TV,* ***All New York Tours*** *(tel 800/868-7786) offers a Manhattan Movie and TV bus tour that takes you past landmarks made famous by* Friends *and* Seinfeld*, among others. Serious* Seinfeld *fans should go straight to the source. Kenny Kramer, former Larry David neighbor and inspiration for guess-which-character, leads* ***Kramer's Reality Tour*** *on weekends at noon (tel 800/Kramers).* ***On Location Tours*** *(tel 212/239-1124) features minibuses that cruise through Manhattan's rich TV history. A special* Sex in the City Tour *will take you past 40 sights relevant to Carrie Bradshaw.*

**Water, water everywhere...** Watching the city glide by from the deck of a sightseeing tour boat (see "Diversions") is a great way to feel the sun on your face and the breeze

ripple through your hair. But for a more interactive experience, rent a rowboat from **Central Park's Loeb Boathouse** (near West 74th St., tel 212/517-2233, spring through fall). Liliputian-style boating takes over the **Conservatory Water** in Central Park (also called the Boat Pond, east side of the park near East 74th St.) on weekends, when enthusiasts with radio-controlled model boats (some so fancy that they cost upwards of $3,000) hold their own regattas. You can launch a paper boat if you want, but remember: If you're racing, international yachting rules are staunchly upheld. If you know how to swim, you're eligible for the **Downtown Boathouse's** walk-up kayaking program. From mid-May until October the Boathouse offers free kayaks on weekends, holidays, and several weekday evenings (www.downtownboathouse.org, tel 646/613-0375, on Pier 26 between Canal and Chambers sts.). If you're feeling more ambitious than a 15-minute paddle, the Boathouse also offers longer trips down to New York Harbor. The Hudson is cleaner than it's been for decades, so getting splashed here and there won't have any lasting health consequences. City Island in the Bronx was once expected to eclipse Manhattan as a population center. Things didn't quite work out that way, but if you want a hint of Nantucket without leaving the five boroughs, a quick car ride will get you across the City Island drawbridge from Pelham Bay Park. You can watch a regatta, rent a motorboat at **The Boat Livery** (663 City Island Ave., tel 718/885-1843), or become a certified scuba diver at **Capt. Mike's Diving Services** (634 City Island Ave., tel 718/885-1588).



**The pick-up game...** Central Park's 55-acre Great Lawn (mid-park from 81st to 85th sts.) is the place to find a pick-up game of softball or frisbee. The big park's carefully maintained **Heckscher Ballfields** (near West 64th St.) are often given over to established amateur leagues, who generally don't welcome drop-ins, but can be fun to watch. (Between the Broadway show leagues, ad agency leagues, and publishing leagues, you may catch some semi-celebrities at play.) Also fun to watch is the frenetic basketball action at the **W. 4th Street "Cage"** (West 4th St. and Sixth Ave.), where Julius Erving and Chris Mullen got their starts. The **North Meadow Recreation Center** in Central Park (just

above West 97th St.) also sees plenty of basketball action. And down at Piers 59–62, **The Chelsea Piers Sports and Entertainment Complex** (tel 212/336–6000, 1-day pass $36) has basketball and volleyball courts (the latter with sand flooring). For further information on where to find softball, basketball, hockey, soccer, and volleyball pick-up games, keep your eyes open for a copy of the freebie newspaper ***Sports City***, distributed in health clubs and sports equipment stores around town. Or log on to www.nycgovparks.org for a full rundown.

**Skating—straight up or on the rocks...** Skating at the diamond-like rink at **Rockefeller Center** (East 50th St. at Fifth Ave., lower plaza, tel 212/332-6868, open in winter) or Central Park's **Wollman Memorial Rink** (near West 64th St., tel 212/396-1010, open in winter) is like stepping into a picture postcard of New York, especially when the snow flies; there are always a few hotdoggers slicing patterns in the ice, but even if you forgot your fur muff and little pink skirt, you can stash your bags in a locker, rent skates, and give it a whirl. At the extreme uptown end of Central Park, there's a more neighborhoody place to hit the ice, **Lasker Rink** (near West 110th St. and the Harlem Meer, tel 212/289-0599, winter). **Sky Rink,** another element of the Chelsea Piers scene (tel 212/336-6100), is roomier and less show-offy, not to mention indoors and open year-round with lockers, equipment rental, and skating instruction. Open ice-hockey frays are offered, too. But enough about ice-skating; let's talk about in-line skating—you see rollerbladers with briefcases stroking their way to Wall Street, sparks flying from grind plates everywhere. During the warm months, Central Park's **Wollman Rink** (see above) goes in-line, but the hot places to rollerblade are the **Dead Road** in Central Park (mid-park from 66th to 69th sts.), Central Park's **slalom course** (weekends, on the circular drive just east of Tavern on the Green at 67th St.), alongside the rehabbed piers in the **West Village,** the 2.5-acre in-line center at **Chelsea Piers,** and the big loop in Brooklyn's **Prospect Park,** for racers. Make sure to wear safety gear; it's a cool look, anyway. In-lines can be rented at **Blades** (160 E. 86th St., tel 212/996-1644; 120 W. 72nd St., tel 212/787–3911; and other locations around Manhattan). For skating instruction and two indoor rinks,

### Hot Wheels—Central Park's Roller Inferno

*One of my favorite spots in the city for a workout (well, an eyeball workout to be completely accurate) is the* ***Dead Road in Central Park.*** *The sight of dozens of expert roller skaters and bladers dancing and spinning to a jamming disco beat is nothing short of hypnotic. Some of the regulars have been rolling together for 2 decades here and the skill level is very high, but if you're halfway competent you shouldn't feel intimidated. The people are friendly and inclusive, so strap on some wheels and jump right in. If you find the idea of turning yourself into a vehicle a little scary, the scene is almost as much fun for the vicarious. The DJs are great, especially now that the city has relented on its anti-beat campaign (in 1995 music was banned from the park, so skaters wore Walkmen all tuned to the same radio channel, creating a surreal silent choreography). The outdoor roller disco is in session on Saturdays and Sundays in warm weather. The Dead Road is in the middle of the park, between 66th and 69th streets, just a little southwest of the Bethesda Fountain.*



try the **Chelsea Piers Roller Rinks** (at Pier 61, tel 212/336-6200). On Wednesday nights The Roxy nightclub (tel 212/645-5157) turns into a giant roller disco; blades and skates are available for rent. For roller hockey, head up to **Stanley M. Isaacs Park** (FDR Dr. from 95th to 97th sts.), where there's a brand-new roller rink. And if boarding's your bag, try the big pipe in Riverside Park (lower level at 112th St.).

**Jungle Gym Dandy...** Taking your children to a playground is a way to survey the more settled aspects of the New York City scene; go with a cup of java and the paper, then install yourself on a bench. Eavesdrop on discussions of whether Heather should go to the Dalton School or Brearley, and scope out the different nannying styles of the various Jamaican, Guyanese, and Irish babysitters. Central Park is dotted with playgrounds, most just a few feet from the east and west avenues. The sandbox set is well served at the Diana Ross Playground (81st and Central Park West), the Spector Playground (85th and Central Park West), and the Wild West Playground at wild West 93rd Street. On the east side, future urban planners may want to check out the impressive engineering of the East 72nd Street Playground, and the Rustic Playground at 67th. Outside of the Park, top of the line spots include the playgrounds at **Union Square Park** (East 16th St. and Broadway), **Bleecker and Hudson streets, Washington Square Park**

(West 4th and Macdougal sts.), **Riverside Park** (at West 91st St.—the "hippo park," nicknamed after its statues that kids clamber over—or the "dino park" at West 97th St.), and **Sutton Place** (East 53rd St. and the FDR Dr.).

**A quick dip...** Space is, of course, at a premium in New York, but a few hotels have swimming pools: the **Days Inn Hotel** (Eighth Ave. and West 48th St., tel 212/581-7000), **Le Parker Meridien** (118 W. 57th St., tel 212/245-5000), **The Peninsula** (700 Fifth Ave., tel 212/247-2200), and the **U.N. Plaza** (1 United Nations Plaza, tel 212/758-1234). The centrally located **Vanderbilt YMCA** (224 E. 47th St., tel 212/756-9600) allows walk-ins as well as Vanderbilt YMCA Hotel guests (see "Accommodations") to use the clean and highly chlorinated pool for $20 a day. A big indoor pool with a sun deck is part of **The Sports Center** at Chelsea Piers (at Pier 60, tel 212/336-6000), which allows day-use guests. In years past a swim in the Hudson also entailed an immediate trip to a hospital for detoxification, but recent cleanup has made the river more accommodating. The **Manhattan Island Foundation** (tel 888/NYC-SWIM) sponsors five races every summer for your swimming or spectating pleasure. If you're interested in a particularly large outdoor swimming spot, I recommend the Atlantic. Just a subway ride away, the beaches at **Coney Island, Brighton,** and **Rockaway** are all wide and as clean as you could hope for given their proximity to 17 million people. The water isn't the most pristine, but on a warm day you'll see plenty of New Yorkers unafraid to bounce in the waves. A little farther east lies legendary **Jones Beach,** a Robert Moses production with broad sandy stretches and seriously nice water. The LIRR out of Penn Station and a short, free shuttle will get you there in under an hour. If you find bathing suits burdensome (and who doesn't?), the nude beach at **Sandy Hook** is a perfect destination (on weekends, take the NY Waterway Ferry from the World Financial Center or Pier 78 at West 38th St. and 12th Ave. to Gunnison Beach). Sandy Hook has an additional 7 miles of beaches where suits are required, if surplus cellulite isn't quite your scene.

**Indoor fitness...** You may be a pro at getting into places you're not supposed to go, but the truth is you've got to be a member to use the facilities in most New York health

clubs. At some independent clubs, taking a tour with a guide from the membership department can win you a free fitness class (plus a sauna and/or steambath, if such amenities are available). If you have friends in the city, convince them to get you a guest pass (which usually costs $10 to $20) at their club, or check with your club at home to see if it has reciprocal privileges someplace in New York. The clubs that offer day passes for out-of-towners without member connections include **David Barton Gym,** where the best male bodies are made ($20 day pass available at the downtown location, 552 Sixth Ave., tel 212/727-0004); the westside **Printing House** ($25 day pass, 421 Hudson St., tel 212/243-7600), with its largely gay clientele, postage stamp–sized rooftop pool, and sweat sun deck. **The Sports Center** at Chelsea Piers (Pier 60, tel 212/336-6000) throws in everything a workout requires, including cardiovascular weight training, aerobics, two tracks, and an indoor pool; day-use passes are available to out-of-towners, but it's a steep $50. **Crunch Fitness** (54 E. 13th St., tel 212/475-2018; 666 Greenwich St., tel 212/366-3725; 160 W. 83rd St., tel 212/875-1902; 404 Lafayette St., tel 212/614-0120, and other locations) admits one-time users for $24 a day. What sets Crunch apart are its fitness classes, with names like "Washboard Abs," "Brand New Butt," and "Uninhibited Funk." If that sounds much too earnest, try the new **Duomo** (11 E. 26 St., tel 212/689-9121), a non-gym gym run by former Mr. America titlist Rich Barretta. Its attractions, beyond the usual high-tech machines, include an art gallery, a pool table, a couple of dozen personal trainers, and nice views of Madison Square Park. Day passes are $20. The city's best disco-disguised-as-a-gym is the Nineteenth Street Gym, which even has DJs spinning during evening "happy hour" (in the heart of gay Chelsea, 22 W. 19th St., tel 212/414-5800, $20 day passes). As for hotels, fitness freaks should book the **Doral Park Avenue** (70 Park Ave., tel 212/973-2500), which has a complete health facility in its Saturnalia Fitness Center (guests at the Doral Court, Doral Tuscany, and Doral Inn are welcome, as well). In the East Village, the Russian and Turkish Baths (tel 212/674-9250) are old-fashioned hothouses with your choice of wet or dry heat. Wednesdays 9am to 2pm are reserved for women only. Walk-in yoga classes are available at the **Yoga Zone** (160 E. 56th St., tel 212/935-YOGA,

and 138 Fifth Ave., tel 212/647-YOGA). Realign your body-mind relationship at **Integral Yoga** (227 W. 13th St., tel 212/929-0585). For Chinese martial arts, try the **Northeastern Tai Chi Chuan Association** (163 W. 23rd St., tel 212/741-1922) or the **New York Martial Arts Center** (598 Broadway, tel 212/431-1100).

**Par for the course...** What do you think this is, the Irrelevant Guide to Manhattan? I'm sure you didn't come here to spoil a walk in nature, but if you have the urge to smack a few balls, try the golf cages at the **Chelsea Piers Golf Club** (tel 212/336-6400, at West 23rd St. and the Hudson River). The four-story cages take up an entire pier and feature a 200-yard-long driving range with a sheltered, heated tee-off area. The nets are suspended from computerized 155-foot-tall towers that automatically lower them when the wind kicks up. If you've got kids in tow, you can all work on your short game at the miniature golf course on Pier 25. Hours are spotty, so call ahead to check, tel 212/766-1104.



**Back in the saddle...** You can go horseback riding at the **Claremont Riding Academy** (175 W. 89th St., tel 212/724-5100); experienced riders get to go out on the bridle paths in Central Park from here, cantering under arched trees, over 19th-century bridges, and along the reservoir.

**You bowl me over...** I have a friend who celebrates his birthday every year with a party at **Bowlmor Lanes** (110 University Place, tel 212/255-8188); when nearby N.Y.U. is in session wait times can be pretty daunting at peak hours, although the bar overlooking the lanes is a great, if not especially athletic, way to kill an hour and a pitcher of beer or three. Maybe next year I can get my friend to try **Leisure Time** (625 Eighth Ave. at 42nd St., tel 212/268-6909), an improbable, modern bowlatorium above the Port Authority Bus Station, or even **AMF Chelsea Piers Bowl** (Pier 60, tel 212/835-2695) for an evening of Xtreme Bowling with Day-Glo pins, blacklight projectors, and fog machines.

**A walk in the park...** When you're stuck in a dim concrete canyon, it can be hard to believe that air, light, and greenery exist anywhere in this city, but Manhattan has an inspiring

### Fly Through the Air with the Greatest of Ease

*No visit to New York would be complete without working on your practical circus skills.* ***Trapeze School New York*** *(www.trapezeschool.com, tel 917-797-1872) offers daily 2-hour classes from spring to fall, weather permitting. Classes cost between $45 and $65 (the higher price applies to peak hours) and are held alongside the Hudson at Pier 26 (North Moore), so you'll enjoy epic views while learning to fly. A safety net is included.*



array of open space (double that of Tokyo's, in fact, even though we have triple their population). All in all there are over 28,000 acres of parkland spread across the boroughs. The piers and banks of the Hudson River Park are the most recent arrivals, with grassy "beaches" protruding into the water. Uptown, Riverside Park is an inversion of the Lower Hudson, all Victorian grace in place of Downtown's sleek modern touches. Riverside's serpentine paths wind all the way from West 76th to 129th streets. The pride of Brooklyn is **Prospect Park,** a sylvan miracle just to the west of Park Slope. The meadows and promenades were laid out by Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux, the same team that put their stamp on the most famous park in the world.

Stretching from 59th to 110th streets, **Central Park** occupies 840 acres of prime Manhattan real estate, but if the city ever tried to sell it off the populace would revolt. Central Park is an island within the island, a crucial vent for the city's boundless energy, helping preserve our collective sanity. More than the lovely natural landscape, there are great cityscapes hiding behind the foliage, and should you tire of tree-watching, Central Park has some of the best people-watching in the world. The city bought the marshy, rock-strewn property for the park in 1851; at the time, one newspaper reporter called it "a pestilential spot where miasmic odors taint every breath of air." But then Olmsted and Vaux took over, filling the lowlands, extracting boulders, erecting rustic stone bridges and Beaux Arts lampposts, and running four major crosstown arteries (65th, 79th, 86th, and 96th st.) through it—though clever engineering and weekend road closures limit the impact of noise and exhaust. In creating the park, the city didn't want to make a museum out of nature, but rather to re-create the rural landscape many recent arrivals had just left behind, going so far as to put a flock of sheep in the Sheep Meadow

(north of 65th St.). The 36-acre **Great Lawn** (midpark between 79th and 86th sts.) was seeded, 58 miles of pedestrian paths were laid, and wonderful architectural follies rose, like **Belvedere Castle** overlooking **Turtle Pond** (now housing a children's learning center and U.S. Weather Service Station, just above 79th St.). Woodland sections like the **Ramble** (lining the northern shores of the **Lake**) and the **Ravine in the North Woods** (midpark around 103rd St.—go here only on weekend days, and never alone) were left intact, and have since become rest stops for flocks of migrating birds (see "For the birds" above).

In recent years, the Parks Department has taken to fencing off big chunks of the park to help the lawns recuperate, which unfortunately creates that "museum of nature" feel that Olmsted and Vaux sought to avoid. There have been a couple of other changes through the years. In 1880, the Met moved into a spot on 82nd and Fifth Avenue. Also in 1880, the park took on a very old-school skyscraper, Cleopatra's Needle, an obelisk built in Heliopolis in 1475 B.C. The Needle stands on a hillock right behind the Met. In 1934, über-urban planner Robert Moses kicked the sheep out of the Sheep Meadow, and their fold became the tourist-magnet Tavern on the Green. Moses went on to part red-tape seas and get tennis courts, playgrounds, recreation centers, and baseball diamonds cut into the greenswards. More recently, the Sheep Meadow and Great Lawn have become great open-air stages for the Metropolitan Opera, Paul Simon and Dave Matthews, the New York Philharmonic, and world figures as varied as the Pope and the Dalai Lama (who gives a public lecture every fall).

The Victorian Gothic **Dairy** (midpark at 65th St.) currently serves as the park's information center and rents queens, kings, and pawns for those who want to test their skill in the **Chess House** nearby. A good entry point for a Central Park tour is at 59th Street and Fifth Avenue, where paths winding to your left take you along the placid, renovated **Pond, Wollman Skating Rink,** the **Dairy,** and a delightful 1903 **Carousel.** Or walk straight into the small though engaging **Central Park Zoo,** where snow monkeys, polar bears, and red pandas roam in natural settings. A few paces north is the entrance to the new **Tisch Children's Zoo,** with more than 25 species of animals, an Enchanted

Forest with interactive displays, and a variety of live performances. South of 72nd Street lies **the Mall,** lined with statues of great men like Robert Burns, Shakespeare, and Christopher Columbus. A terrible national blight has made the stand of stately American Elms here one of the last of its kind. Rollerbladers have staked a claim to the nearby pavement, and just to the west roller-skaters boogie in an infectious open-air disco (along Center Dr., the beat will lead you there). **Bethesda Terrace,** one of the only formal settings in Central Park, graces the central sector north of 72nd Street, with the **Angel of the Waters** fountain, sculpted by Emma Stebbins in 1870; rowboats from the **Loeb Boathouse** (see "Water, water everywhere" above) ply the waters of the lake below. **Strawberry Fields,** Yoko Ono's garden tribute to John Lennon, is at 72nd Street and Central Park West.

On the north side of the lake, midpark at 79th Street, the **Delacorte Theater** presents Shakespeare in the Park every summer (see "Your Own Free Will" on p. 250 for more information). After a performance you can enjoy the park at night among a gang of fellow theater-goers. Other nocturnal visits can be a dodgy proposition. Unless you have a pit bull in need of an evening constitutional, I'd wait until sunrise. Contrary to popular fears, the northern reaches of the park can be navigated safely on weekend afternoons—they hold seldom-visited glories like the **Great Hill** (on the west side at 106th St.), a popular picnic spot; the recently renovated **Harlem Meer,** stocked with fish; and the **Conservatory Garden,** perhaps my favorite place in Central Park. Enter through the Vanderbilt Gate (taken from the Vanderbilt mansion downtown) at 105th Street and Fifth Avenue; stroll along the crab-apple allées with overarching bows and shady benches; stop for a moment in the Japanese wisteria pergola, decked with blooms in the spring; gaze at the delightful **Three Maidens** statue in the French Garden; and then find your way to the **Secret Garden** on the south side, where heliotropes, snapdragons, hollyhocks, phlox, butterflies, and bumblebees run riot on hot summer days.

SHOP

# PING 5

# Basic Stuff

Shopping is a favorite pastime of New Yorkers. You don't have to need anything. You don't even have to buy anything. Instead, approach it as another form of sightseeing, in one of the world's biggest, most seductive bazaars. Deals on perennial New York draws like designer clothes, jewelry and watches, art and antiques, perfume, and toys can simply be too good to pass up. The city has 10,000 shops and boutiques, including the huge national chains. But those you can find at a nearby mall. What you won't find at the mall are the countless specialty shops, often on side streets or in out-of-the-way neighborhoods. It's these that make up a large part of the charm of shopping in Manhattan.



### Target Zones

**Madison Avenue** from 57th to 79th streets has usurped Fifth Avenue as *the* tony shopping street in the city; in fact, it boasts the most expensive retail real estate in the world. This ultra-deluxe strip—particularly in the high 60s—is home to the most luxurious designer boutiques. On weekends, well-heeled shoppers and window-gazers browse the elegant storefronts of **Gianni Versace, Ralph Lauren,** and **Calvin Klein** to name just a few. For those of us without unlimited budgets, the good news is that stores like **Crate & Barrel** make the untouchable Madison Avenue seem approachable and affordable.

Time was, only the wealthy could shop the sacred crossroads of **Fifth Avenue** and **57th Street.** Such is not the case anymore, now that **Tiffany & Co.,** which has long reigned supreme here, sits a stone's throw from **Niketown** and the **NBA Store.** In addition, a good number of mainstream retailers, like Banana Republic, have flagships along Fifth, further democratizing the avenue. Still, you will find a number of big-ticket designers radiating from the crossroads, including **Chanel, Gucci,** and **Prada.** You'll also find big-name jewelers along here, as well as chichi department stores like **Bergdorf Goodman** and **Saks Fifth Avenue,** all of which help the avenue maintain its classy cachet.

**Herald Square**—where 34th Street, Sixth Avenue, and Broadway converge—is dominated by **Macy's,** the self-proclaimed world's biggest department store. The surrounding blocks, particularly 34th Street between Fifth and Sixth avenues, have been commandeered by mall chains like the Gap and Express.

**Lower Fifth Avenue,** on the other hand, is a favorite strip for 20-somethings possessing a penchant for versatile styles with starting-salary-friendly price tags. Beginning at the foot of the Flatiron Building on 23rd Street and continuing down to 14th Street, shops like **Anthropologie, Club Monaco,** and **Zara** offer smart and often quirky takes on men's and women's clothes.

**Chelsea** and the **West Village** are home to Manhattan's gay enclave and, as such, have drawn a number of men's stores. **Eighth Avenue** and **Bleecker Street** are peppered with shops offering cool casualwear and European sneakers, while a jumble of stores selling novelties from rainbow flags and T-shirts to gay erotica line **Christopher Street.** The West Village's quaint, tree-lined streets have also attracted a few high-end designers, like **Marc Jacobs** and **Diane Von Furstenburg,** as well as a spate of little boutiques selling women's clothes and accessories you won't find everyone else wearing. Whether you're an avid art collector or you just want to explore beyond the Met and the Guggenheim, the best place to investigate is Chelsea's ever-expanding **gallery scene.** The blocks west of Tenth Avenue (roughly between West 21st and West 29th sts.) still appear to be an oil-stained, concrete wasteland of all-night autobody shops and taxi garages, but more and more of these spaces have been "repurposed" as airy, well-lit exhibit halls featuring work from emerging and established artists. A good place to start is with **Matthew Marks Gallery** and others along **West 24th Street.**

The **Meat-Packing District,** which claims the northwestern corner of Greenwich Village just south of Chelsea, was once the province of aproned meatmen and dockworkers from the nearby waterfront. But over the last 15 years, the stench of decaying meat scraps has gradually (but not totally) been replaced by the wafting scents of pastry and espresso as French bistros, exclusive nightclubs, and upscale shops and galleries have moved in. Lured by the old-world industrial charm of uneven cobblestone streets and meat hooks hanging above the blood-tinged sidewalks, avant-garde designers **Stella McCartney** and **Alexander McQueen** share the streets and alleys with sleek clothing boutiques and modern home-design stores.

People love to complain about superfashionable **SoHo**—it's become too trendy, too tony, too much like the mall. True, **Nicole Miller** and **Miu Miu** are only two of many big names that have supplanted the artists and galleries that used to inhabit its cast-iron buildings. But SoHo still boasts plenty of unique boutiques, and few neighborhoods are more fun to browse.

Not so long ago, **Elizabeth Street** was a nondescript adjunct to Little Italy and the no-man's-land east of SoHo. Today it's one of the hottest shopping streches in town, the star of the neighborhood known as **NoLita.** Elizabeth and neighboring Mott and Mulberry streets are dotted with an increasing number of shops between Houston and Spring streets, with a few pushing one more block south to Kenmare. This may be a burgeoning neighborhood, but don't expect cheap—NoLita is clearly the stepchild of SoHo. Its boutiques are largely run by sophisticated shopkeepers specializing in high-quality fashion-forward products and design.

The **East Village** personifies bohemian hip. **East 9th Street** between Second Avenue and Avenue A is lined with an increasingly smart collection of boutiques, proving that the East Village isn't just for kids anymore. Up-and-coming designers, like **A. Cheng,** sell excellent-quality and affordably priced original fashions for women along here. If it's strange, illegal, or funky, it's probably available on **St. Marks Place,** which takes over for 8th Street, running east from Third Avenue to Avenue A. This skanky strip is a permanent street market, with countless T-shirt and boho jewelry stands. The height of the action is between Second and Third avenues, which is prime hunting grounds for used-record collectors.



The bargains aren't quite what they used to be on the **Lower East Side** in the **Historic Orchard Street Shopping District**—which basically runs from Houston to Canal along Allen and Orchard streets, spreading outward along both sides of Delancey Street—but prices on leather bags, shoes, luggage, and fabrics on the bolt are still quite good. Come during the week, since most stores are Jewish-owned and, therefore, close Friday afternoon and all day Saturday. Sunday tends to be a madhouse. The artists and other trendsetters who have been turning this neighborhood into a bastion of hip have added a cutting edge to its shopping scene in recent years, too. You'll find a growing—and increasingly upscale—crop of alterna-shops south of Houston and north of Grand Street, between Allen and Clinton streets to the east and west, specializing in up-to-the-minute fashions, funky retro furnishings, and other offbeat items.

Don't expect to find the purchase of a lifetime on **Chinatown**'s streets, but there's some quality browsing to be had. The fish and herbal markets along Canal, Mott, Mulberry, and Elizabeth streets are fun for their bustle and exotica.

Dispersed among them (especially along **Canal St.**), you'll find a mind-boggling collection of knock-off sunglasses, watches, and handbags that, when paired with the right outfit, could pass for the real thing if you don't look too closely. It's a fun way to spend the day, but don't expect superb quality—and be sure to bargain before you buy. (Also, skip the bootleg CDs, video, and software—these are stolen goods, and you *will* be disappointed with the product.) **Mott Street,** between Pell Street and Chatham Square, boasts the most interesting of Chinatown's off-Canal shopping, with an antiques shop or two dispersed among the tiny storefronts selling blue-and-white Chinese dinnerware.

### Bargain Hunting

New Yorkers don't like to pay full price for anything if it can be avoided. Here's how veteran shoppers manage to survive in style in one of the world's most expensive cities.

Most clothing retailers and department stores hold **clearance sales** in August (sundresses and bathing suits), December (linens), and January (coats), and around major holidays like the Fourth of July, Columbus Day, and Presidents' Weekend—look for humongous newspaper ads with banner headlines like "Blowout" and "Spectacular Savings."

**Designer sample sales,** on the other hand, are barely publicized but worth sleuthing out. At these roving sales, designers typically set up shop in a warehouse space for a few days and sell off the samples they've used to present their collections to the trade. For the most part, these sales are terrific opportunities to snap up designer outfits at substantially less than regular price, though sometimes they're more like your average clearance sales—with regular merchandise instead of samples, and prices only slightly lower than retail. The "Sales and Bargains" column in New York magazine offers excellent insider advice on sample sales, or check for updates on their website at www.newyorkmetro.com.

Of course, New Yorkers couldn't live without devoted **discounters** like **Century 21** in Lower Manhattan, **Loehmann's** in Chelsea, and **Daffy's** in the Flatiron District. Of particular note is **Find Outlet,** also in Chelsea, which, like a discounter, carries an unpredictable selection of women's clothes and accessories at seriously reduced prices. But the hip atmosphere and fresh fare from cutting-edge labels make it seem more like a downtown boutique than a bargain basement.

**Flea markets** offer good buys in the open air. New York's favorite is the **Annex Antiques Fair & Flea Market,** which takes over empty parking lots in Chelsea along Sixth Avenue between 24th and 27th streets on Saturdays and Sundays. About 425 vendors peddle costume jewelry, vintage clothes, old furniture, and an assortment of other oddities and treasures. **Street vendors** are another source of outdoor bargains, with wares ranging from original artwork and handmade jewelry to knock-off handbags and I-heart-NY souvenirs. Two street markets seem to have settled in permanently, one just south of Tower Records on Broadway in Greenwich Village and the other at Wooster and Spring streets in SoHo, where the goods tend toward T-shirts, strappy sundresses, tapes, and cast-off lots from the Gap.

### Business Hours

As a rule, New York shops open at 10am and close at 6 or 7pm Monday to Saturday. Downtown is shut tight as a tomb on weekends, and the Lower East Side observes the Jewish Sabbath on Friday afternoons and Saturdays. Saturdays are great for shopping during the day on the Upper East and West sides, but many stores take Sunday off. In the Village and SoHo, merchants are apparently nocturnal; some don't open up until noon, and take Monday rather than Sunday off. Between Thanksgiving and Christmas stores often extend their hours to accommodate busy shoppers. And remember—New York is the city that never sleeps. In an emergency, you can almost always find what you need 24 hours a day by checking the Yellow Pages.



### Sales Tax

The sales tax is 8.625% in New York City, unless the store ships your purchases out of state for you. It is non-refundable—foreign visitors will not be reimbursed at the airport.

## The Lowdown

**Style-wise guys...** Manhattan men rely heavily on department stores where they can pick up suits, workout clothes, jeans, and suave styles for Saturday night club-hopping all in one shot. But if you know what you want and aren't in the mood to navigate escalators and elevators to find it, just go straight to the source. For cool, understated designer looks, head to **John Varvatos, Marc Jacobs,** or **agnès b.**

**homme** in SoHo. Suits from traditional Midtown men's shops like **Paul Stuart** and **Brooks Brothers** say "serious and successful," but a not-so-serious alternative is **Paul Smith,** in the Flatiron District, for classic suits and shirts in bold colors and patterns. Choose your own pattern at **Seize sur Vingt,** in NoLita, which provides custom-made shirts, as well as an off-the-rack selection. Not feeling the Pointdexter look? **Phat Farm** brings hip-hop loungewear and outerwear to the streets of SoHo, and **X-Large,** in NoLita, caters to DJs and skaters. **Scoop NYC,** in the Meat-Packing District, carries jeans, sweaters, and T-shirts from fashion-conscious brands like Calvin Klein and Earl Jean. **Gerry's,** in Chelsea, is great for printed shirts from Ben Sherman, Bagutta, and Hugo Boss. **Bang Bang,** also in Chelsea, is the place to hit for muscle shirts, tight jeans, and other check-me-out club gear.

**Funky clothes for alternagirls...** The Lower East Side is a great neighborhood to check out if your taste runs to asymmetrical hems, deliberately slashed necklines, and leather accents. **TG-170** carries styles from iron-on tees to sexy dresses by edgy local labels like Prudence and United Bamboo. Or mix things up at **Foley & Corinna** where the racks abound with promising vintage pieces interspersed with new designs bearing the store's own label. Despite the abundance of upscale boutiques crowding the streets of SoHo, the area still offers plenty of funky streetwear. Club kids, drag queens, and trend-chasers all have their reasons for loving **Hotel Venus by Patricia Field,** a fashion funhouse strewn with costumey vinyl boots,

### Tattoo You

*If you're out for a surly-looking tattoo or a piercing that provokes surreptitious stares from strangers, your best bet is definitely to head downtown to the East Village, but at least one long-time New Yorker and tattoo aficiando counsels against some of the "sketchy" tattoo parlors on St. Mark's Place. A good nearby alternative is* ***New York Adorned.*** *The exposed brick and soft lighting make the place feel more like an apartment than a tattoo parlor. But tattoo they do, as well as body piercing and henna designs (mehndi). While you're waiting, peruse their surprisingly beautiful jewelry collection, which includes navel rings, nose rings, and eyelets for stretched ears in gold, silver, and semi-precious stones.*

spandex tops, rubber skirts, and diva wigs, most with spangles or feathers thrown on for added glam. **Miss Sixty** revs up jeans, T-shirts, and jackets by blending disco, punk, and new-wave looks from late last century. **Big Drop** stocks cute jeans brands like Frankie B. and Seven, plus laid-back hoodies, date-night tops, and bold accessories for extra pizazz. Hippie chicks and fans of the retro look adore **Anthropologie,** where faux-vintage embellishments like ribbons, pearly buttons, and lacey appliqués make the boutique's clothes and lingerie feel less cookie-cutter than most.

**It Girl boutiques...** It's not about flaunting a Chanel jacket or this season's Prada bag. Rather, the It Girl's closet is full of perfectly flattering pants, unusual tops, and entrance-making party dresses all culled from shops here and there. Luckily, this city has an abundance of small boutiques that pride themselves on offering you just such items. We won't lie to you—it can get expensive ($100 tops and $200 dresses do tend to add up), but prices are not all sky-high, and you never know what amazing creations will be on sale. **Dernier Cri** in the Meat-Packing District stocks cutting-edge pieces from labels like Frost French and Circle by Mara Hoffman, while **Scoop NYC,** next door, carries designs from more established lines like Juicy Couture and Theory. A few blocks away in the West Village you'll find even more stores championing lesser-known labels. **Albertine** mainly showcases local designers, and many pieces are one-of-a-kind; **Elizabeth Charles** has a monopoly on up-and-coming designers from Australia and New Zealand. Shoppers at **Otte** can browse through styles from Rebecca Taylor, Ulla Johnson, and Development; and those who pop into **The Otter** (no relation) will find Lila, Rozae Nichols, and Lauren Moffat. On lower Fifth Avenue, two larger boutiques offer a broad choice of styles from hot designers. At **Intermix** you'll find Catherine Malandrino, Vince, and Ella Moss, while **Searle** tends toward more tailored looks from Trina Turk and Milly. When in SoHo, stop by **Olive & Bette's** for youthful, preppy skirts, jeans, and shirts in colorful prints or **Calypso** for gauzy cotton and light-weight knits in tropical sunset colors. In TriBeCa, **Sorelle Firenze** pulls together a charming mix of clothes, bathing suits, and tote bags in an array of textures and patterns. **Martin,** in the East Village, has a reputation for

great-fitting jeans, and another neighborhood standout, **A. Cheng,** turns out polished but un-stuffy pieces with admirable attention to cut, fabric, and finishing details.

**Don't fall into the Gap...** A few shrewd international chains have found a way to bring us affordable men's and women's basics with more panache than the average crew-neck T-shirt and relaxed-fit jeans. The Stockholm-based chain **H&M** (short for Hennes & Mauritz), in Midtown, has super-hip threads at shockingly low prices—just keep in mind neither the quality nor the style is meant to outlast the season. On the other hand, Canadian import **Club Monaco,** located in the Flatiron District, may well have perfected the formula for sharply cut clothes that last for years, go with everything, and yet have enough attitude to stand on their own. Spanish retailer **Zara,** in SoHo, holds a special place in the hearts of many fashion hounds for its consistent ability to serve up the latest European trends at reasonable prices.

**Shoes for fashionistas...** There's no way to discuss Manhattan shopping without paying homage to the holy trinity of sexy shoes—**Manolo Blahnik,** in Midtown, and **Jimmy Choo** and **Christian Louboutin,** on the Upper East Side, whose sleek stilettos are equally prized by staid socialites, ambitious career women, and wild party girls. But for a change of pace, try **Constança Basto,** in the West Village. The orange-striped boutique is worth a visit for the decor alone, but as long as you're there, stay to try on the slick leather heels or shiny satin sandals dripping with white rhinestones. Fortunately for our feet, **Sigerson Morrison,** in NoLita, makes phenomenally stylish flats in addition to modest-heeled boots, pumps, and sling-backs that combine elements of '60s mod and '30s glamour. **Hollywould,** also in NoLita, carries sweet, pretty slides and pumps that go just as well with a sundress by the pool as they do with slinky black pants in a crowed nightclub. Women on a quest for the holy grail of shoes—an everyday pair you can walk across town in that doesn't cost $400—often find themselves at **Sacco,** in SoHo. The store's line consists of cool Italian shoes which allow you to keep up with the trends without killing your feet or spending a fortune.

**Shoes for people who hate the word *fashionista*...** Don't care which shoes are "*so* in" this year? Assert your individuality at stores that carry styles for men and women who buck the trends. **Camper,** a Spanish company with an outpost in SoHo, makes comfy rubber-soled walking shoes with an old-world-meets-new-technology flavor. The sturdy, round-toe lace-ups at **John Fluevog Shoes,** in NoLita, are like Doc Martins on an acid trip, with flames and flourishes streaking up the sides; pointy hipster styles are also available. **Otto Tootsi Plohound,** in the Flatiron District, stocks shoes as outlandish as the store's name, like Aladdin slippers with curled toes or the ever-practical high-heeled sneaker. They also carry more wearable but still ahead-of-trend labels like Costume National and Freelance. If you really feel up to it, have a go at the shoe stores that line **8th Street** between Fifth and Sixth avenues in Greenwich Village. It's a total mixed bag of motorcycle boots, fetish platforms, and international brands no one's ever heard of. But if you're looking for weird, wild footwear, you're guaranteed to find it here.



**Money bags...** Let's acknowledge that a $5,600 Hermès Birkin Bag is way, *way* beyond what most people can afford to pay for a handbag (not to mention the 3-year waiting list to receive one). Thus, the responsibility has fallen to **Coach,** with stores in Midtown and throughout the city, to provide the average status-conscious Manhattanite with high quality leather purses, briefcases, cell phone holders, and logo dog collars. If you're looking for something more original, **Rafe New York,** in Greenwich Village, uses mixed materials like colorful suedes, fabrics, distressed leather, and other decorative accents to give classic shapes a personality upgrade. Knock-offs of **Kate Spade**'s ladylike, boxy handbags are sold on practically every street corner; but to acquire the real thing, drop into her spacious SoHo store. Also in SoHo, **Jack Spade** offers good-looking briefcases and messenger bags in "guy" materials, like leather, tweed, canvas, and nylon. But for a messenger bag that goes better with Carharts than khakis, look no further than **Manhattan Portage,** in the East Village, whose durable nylon sacks are heavily favored by DJs, artists, students, and actual messengers. At the **Village Tannery,** in Greenwich Village, if you don't see what you want on the shelf, choose the style, color, and hardware you like and they'll custom

make your bag in just a few days (rush service and out-of-town shipping also available). Another source for beautiful hand-crafted leather is **Jutta Neumann New York,** on the Lower East Side, which sells bags and sandals in bright reds, oranges, greens, and blues, with a few concessions to traditional brown and black.

**Accessorize this...** **Destination,** in the Meat-Packing District, is an artful array of hats, scarves, shoes, hosiery, and jewelry by European designers. Shopping at **Patch NYC,** in the West Village, is like visiting the cabin of a French-Canadian lumberjack with an uncanny eye for style. Deer and other woodland fauna and flora adorn hats, scarves, and pillows in foresty greens and browns. But the real draw is purses and makeup bags made from fabulous vintage fabrics. You might be tempted to dismiss **Verve,** also in the West Village, as just another a tiny, overstuffed accessories store. But those in the neighborhood appreciate its unique but affordable selection of bags, jewelry, and accessories for men and women. You may think you're not a hat person, but **Eugenia Kim,** in the East Village, has one to fit almost any personality (and face shape). Sporty newsboy caps, shy cloches, mysterious fedoras, and sexy ski-bunny knits come in all kinds of eye-catching but flattering colors. However, you may want to scope out the styles at Eugenia Kim, but then swing by **Barbara Feinman,** another East Village millinery where the hats are still head-turning but prices are less steep. Need glasses to go with that hat? **Selima Optique,** in SoHo, sells chic, two-tone frames with retro flair, or check out **MyOptics,** in the East Village, where the counterculture goes for hip and eccentric eyewear.

***Ooo—shiny!...*** Fifth Avenue in Midtown is definitely the place for diamond hunting. **Tiffany & Co.** is the most famous jeweler here and the most accessible. The main floor is always crowded with shoppers peering at Elsa Peretti and Paloma Picasso designs, while the mezzanine level is roamed by couples studying case after case of engagement rings. The best bargains are on 47th Street between Fifth and Sixth avenues—otherwise known as the **Diamond District.** The stores and exchanges (where independent dealers have booths) sell loose diamonds and colored gems as well as finished pieces. If you're after a watch,

**Tourneau,** around the corner from Tiffany's on 57th Street, has more than 100 brands to choose from. Bored to tears by the traditional stuff? **Fragments,** in SoHo, is where the downtown crowd goes for more contemporary looks, like raw stones and precious metals molded in organic shapes.

**Upgrading your Underoos...** **La Petite Coquette** in Greenwich Village is well known for having the city's finest selection of European lingerie. Find favorite brands like Aubade, Huit, and Le Mystère, plus that beloved panty-line eliminator, the Cosa Bella thong. **La Perla**'s Madison Avenue boutique features the Italian label's super-luxe foundations, plus lingerie-inspired clothing from its ready-to-wear line. The spacious layout and bare concrete floor at **Mixona,** in NoLita, are a welcome change of pace for those who feel claustrophobic in overstuffed, satin-and-velvet-draped stores. Browse the simple racks for styles from Christina Stott, Siren, Blumarine, and Jean-Paul Gaultier, and don't miss the sale section in the back. Feel like a butterfly in floaty, color-saturated silk from **Le Corset by Selima,** in SoHo, or make like a pin-up with the shop's collection of vintage undergarments. And if you're really in the mood, the brazenly sexy styles at **Agent Provacateur,** in SoHo, practically dare you to have a *9 1/2 Weeks* affair.



**Outer beauty...** Beauty superstore **Sephora,** in Times Square, sells men's and women's personal care products and fragrances with recognizable names like Clinique, Calvin Klein, and Nars, as well as several smaller brands. However, a more authentic and charming option is **C. O. Bigelow,** a Greenwich Village apothecary which carries myriad hair and skincare lines, not to mention quite a collection of sparkly hair clips. **Kiehl's,** another old-timer in the East Village, has achieved cult status with its high-quality lotions and shampoos in no-frills packaging. For expert cosmetics advice, go to **MAC** in the West Village, where sponge-wielding artists are standing by to whip you up a dramatic new look. Guys can indulge in top-of-the-line razors and shaving creams at **The Art of Shaving,** in Midtown, or make an appointment for a professional barber shave. For the full treatment, head to **Nickel,** a men's store and spa in Chelsea which offers massage, facials, body waxing, manicures, and pedicures. Afterwards, shop the

lobby for grooming products like their Bonne Gueule moisturizer.

**Where to splash 'n' sniff...** If you've been searching for a signature scent, there's a good chance you'll find one that suits you here; there are more serious purveyors of fine fragrance in Manhattan than you might guess. **Aedes de Venustas** does not deign to carry body spray by J. Lo or BCBG. This little West Villager lavishes customers with scents from only master perfumers like Acqua di Parma and L'Artisan Parfumeur. You can easily spend an hour in **Jo Malone,** on the ground floor of the famous Flatiron Building, layering simple unisex scents like Lime Basil & Mandarin and Nutmeg & Ginger to create your own compelling composition. Not surprisingly, **Caswell-Massey,** an American perfumer that's been in operation since 1752 with a Midtown store since 1926, offers women's fragrances based on traditional garden flowers like rose and lilac, while men's colognes include colonial-era notes of bay leaf, sandalwood, and leather. **Floris London,** with a store on the Upper East Side, holds the distinction of being London's oldest perfumer, designing complex blends of florals and spices for more than 270 years. Almost as old (but not quite) is English perfumer **Creed.** The company's NoHo boutique features upper-class favorites like Empress Eugénie Jasmine and Green Irish Tweed, influenced by the company's roots in Britain and France.



**One-stop shopping...** **Macy's,** in Herald Square, is almost better known for holiday traditions like its Spring Flower Show, the Thanksgiving Day Parade, and Santaland than it is for shopping (by the way, all you jaded Christmas shoppers will love David Sedaris's insider account of Macy's Christmas village, called "The Santaland Diaries"). Nevertheless, it's actually a great place to pick up well-priced everyday items from sheets and toasters to school clothes and workwear. A bonus is that with a snob-factor of zero, you don't feel judged for wearing sweats while browsing the designer departments. The main hub of Upper East Side shopping is fashionable **Bloomingdale's,** where trend-savvy customers come for the latest to-die-for shade of Chanel nail polish, hottest brand of jeans, or newest labor-saving Cuisinart appliance. **Lord & Taylor,** on Fifth

Avenue in Midtown, is sometimes overlooked as a bit conservative but continues to be appreciated for its loyal support of American designers—both the men's and women's departments heavily favor the likes of Ralph Lauren, Donna Karan, and Calvin Klein. You'll find two of Manhattan's ritziest department stores farther up Fifth Avenue, between Rockefeller Center and Central Park. **Saks Fifth Avenue** and **Bergdorf Goodman** furnish shoppers with high-end fashions and luxurious items for the home. But the chicest department store in town is **Barneys,** on the Upper East Side, with a reputation for tapping emerging designers and craftspeople in order to thrill customers with all things unique, lavish, and enviable.

**Not your average department store...** Once crammed in among the knock-off vendors in Chinatown, **Pearl River Mart** has gained some breathing room in its new address on Broadway in SoHo. The spacious emporium carries tons of good-looking and affordable imports from China—bowls, plates, and tea sets in deep jewel-tone glazes; room-dividing screens; lamps; traditional brocade shirts; and little sequined slippers that are as ubiquitous as flip-flops around here in the summer. It's a little unusual that **Zitomer,** an Upper East Side department store, has only five departments (health and beauty, lingerie, accessories, children's, and pets), but each one is exceptionally well stocked with a comprehensive range of quality brands. **Henri Bendel,** in a beautifully ornate old building on Fifth Avenue in Midtown, is considered one of the city's most glamorous department stores. Sadly, it only carries chic women's clothes, accessories, and cosmetics; men are out of luck. **Jeffery New York,** in the Meat-Packing District, caters to both men and women with clothing, a small range of cosmetics, and by all accounts the absolute best shoe department in Manhattan. Since everything here is strictly designer, though, prices on most items are high enough to induce vertigo.

**Better studios & fire escapes...** City-dwellers may not have so-called traditional "homes" or "gardens" (or in some cases "kitchens" or "bedrooms" either), but that just encourages a more creative approach to interior decorating. Dress up your living space with mod, geometric furniture and accessories from **The Terence Conran Shop,** on the

## Auction Action

It sounds all dry and boring and British, but going to a live auction can be a blast, even if you don't actually buy anything. Exerting the effort to get dressed and go out in public to attend an auction could be considered a downside if you'd rather sit around in your underwear surfing eBay. But it's worth it to see some of the amazing furniture, jewels, and other *objets d'art,* not to mention the rich and occasionally famous people who turn out to buy them. Don't be intimidated if you've never done it before. Here's how it works:

1. **Find out what sales are being held while you're in town.** Call the auction house or, if there's a website, check their calendar online for information.
2. **Attend the preview.** The auction house usually exhibits items for a few days before the sale. Going to the preview is like browsing a museum full of rare and expensive artifacts, except you're allowed to touch almost everything. For some people, this is the main event—it's common to show up and ogle the goods but skip the auction if you're not interested in buying.
3. **Ask about admission.** Some auction houses welcome anyone to walk in off the street and attend a sale, but in certain cases you might need a ticket. Other establishments prefer to register your financial information in advance and may turn away unregistered onlookers.
4. **Go to the auction and start bidding!** Don't worry, it's not like in the movies where someone scratches their nose and accidentally winds up buying a Picasso. Even though that kind of fiasco seldom occurs, the competition can be exciting or even pretty funny. And best of all, you could end up with some seriously cool stuff for less than you'd pay at retail.

Naturally, the world's two top auction houses have salerooms in New York City. Both **Christie's,** in Rockefeller Center, and **Sotheby's,** on the Upper East Side, regularly host high-profile auctions of famous artwork, historical treasures, and celebrity memorabilia.

Upper East Side, or head to **Mxyplyzyk,** in Chelsea, for quirky decorative accents like striped dinnerwear and polka dot welcome mats. Snoop in the medicine cabinet guilt free at **Apartment 48,** a Flatiron District boutique set up like an actual apartment with elegant touches for every room of the house. The collage-like displays of piled-up furniture, flowers, china, and cascading chandeliers in the windows of **ABC Carpet & Home,** in Union Square, offer a glimpse of the decadent antique and modern goods you'll find inside. Setting an elegant table is a cinch at **Global Table,** a SoHo store with a combination of Eastern and Western dishware. **Bodum,** in the Meat-Packing District, specializes in efficient Danish coffee pots and espresso sets. **La Cafetière,** in Chelsea, has all the tea towels and café au lait bowls you need to turn your humble dinette set into a country spread in Provence. **Jonathan Adler,** in SoHo, is best known for ceramic vases, bowls, and lamps that spruce up any end table. Lastly, if you dig retro, two Chelsea shops, **Authentiques Past and Present** and **Mr. Pink,** have excellent collections of vintage dishes, Christmas ornaments, and superhero glasses.

**How to buy your kids' love...** They'll probably worship you if you take them to the granddaddy of all toy stores, **FAO Schwarz** in Midtown. But think seriously about how much their everlasting devotion actually means to you because this place can be a sensory-overload nightmare, especially on a weekend. You can also score big points with visits to the **Toys "R" Us** flagship store and **The Disney Store,** both in Times Square, and both likely to be high on every kid's checklist. Sneak a little education in with a trip to **The Scholastic Store** in SoHo. They'll be so busy stocking up on books and toys from series like *Harry Potter, Goosebumps,* and *Clifford the Big Red Dog* that they may not even notice. While you're in the neighborhood, head into **The Enchanted Forest,** a charming toy store with fairy-tale-decor, including a balcony "tree house" inhabited by stuffed animals. At the end of the day, if they've been very, very good, reward them with a trip to **Dylan's Candy Bar,** on the Upper East Side, where they'll be dazzled by two floors of wall-to-wall sweets.

**The printed page...** **Gotham Book Mart** is an anomalous island in workaholic Midtown, perilously crammed with

used, new, and rare finds; **Three Lives** is a living-room-size West Villager devoted to fiction, with a staff full of real readers; and **Coliseum Books** is a richly stocked independent that recently opened in a new location off Times Square. Near Union Square, **Forbidden Planet** deals in comic books and sci-fi collectibles, and the **Strand** has a staggering 2.5 million used volumes ("eight miles of books"), including half-price review copies. Then there are the wonderful little specialists—**The Drama Book Shop,** in the Theater District, naturally, featuring scripts and practical volumes for actors and directors; **Kitchen Arts & Letters** on the Upper

## Audio Files

*Music buffs will find a wealth of new-and-used shops lining Bleecker and Carmine streets in the West Village. Unfortunately,* ***Bleecker Bob's*** *has outlived its legend; it's now a dirty little hole-in-the-wall with lots of worn, badly organized vinyl.* ***Mondo Kim's,*** *in the East Village, is a standout for indie music, video,and 'zines. In addition to the extensive classical and jazz collection at* ***Academy Records & CDs,*** *in the Flatiron District, the store has a variety of other audiophile favorites, from rare '60s pop songsters to spoken word. Long-lived* ***Colony Music Center,*** *in the Theater District, is a nostalgia emporium filled with a pricey but excellent collection of vintage vinyl and new CDs. You'll find a great collection of Broadway scores and cast recordings, decades worth of recordings by pop song stylists both legendary and obscure, and the city's best collection of sheet music.* ***Generation Records,*** *in Greenwich Village, sells mostly CDs and is an excellent source for "import" live recordings. Originally specializing in hard-core, punk, and heavy metal, the collection still has a heavy edge but has since diversified appreciably.* ***Jazz Record Center,*** *in Chelsea, is the place to find rare and out-of-print jazz records. In addition to the extensive selection of CDs and vinyl (including 78s), posters, magazines, photos, and other memorabilia are available.* ***Other Music,*** *in Greenwich Village, focuses exclusively on small international labels, especially those on the cutting edge. Needless to say, the world music selection is terrific—fascinating and bound to be filled with music you've never heard of. A mighty chain it may be, but it's hard to complain about* ***Tower Records.*** *The multimedia superstore is brimming with an encyclopedic collection of music—classical, jazz, rock, world—and also stocks a very good selection of indie and alternative labels. Just behind it at West 4th and Lafayette is* ***Tower Video,*** *where you'll find videos and magazines (although the video selection isn't as good as you might expect). Right in the heart of Times Square,* ***Virgin Megastore*** *bustles day and night. For the size of it, the selection isn't as wide as you'd think; still, you're likely to find what you're looking for among the two levels of domestic and imported CDs and cassettes. Other plusses are an extensive singles department, a phenomenal number of listening posts, plus a huge video department.*

*—Cheryl Farr Leas*

East Side; and **Murder Ink** on the Upper West Side, to name only a few. Of course, these days in New York, smaller bookstores are closing in droves. The superstore chains, like **Barnes & Noble** in Union Square and **Borders** in Midtown, are absolutely dominating the market.

**Sports gear...** If you're into sports primarily as a fashion statement, the **Adidas Originals Store** and **The Puma Store,** both in SoHo, sell sneakers, T-shirts, and tracksuits with old-school logos and styling. If your goal is to actually participate in physical activity, centrally located **Paragon Sporting Goods** is a great place to get set for athletic endeavors from step aerobics to lacrosse. Located on three levels of a cavernous warehouse near Union Square, it offers reasonable prices and frequent sales. **Eastern Mountain Sports** can help you with sleeping bag pads, skis, rock climbing equipment, and ice picks, though these days "gear heads" are making a beeline down to **Patagonia,** a link in the environmentally conscious California sports-retailing chain. In addition to sneakers, **Niketown,** in Midtown, sells apparel both for team sports and individual pursuits like running and yoga. If you've pretty much decided you're happiest as a spectator, check out the **NBA Store,** in Midtown, for everything a die-hard fan could want, from team jerseys to team pencil cases and refrigerator magnets.



**Everything you've always wanted to know about sex toys but were afraid to ask...** Oh, don't look so shocked. If you've never been inside one of those stores with furry handcuffs in the window and an "18 and over" sign on the door, a trip to the City is your big chance to admit your curiosity, overcome your shyness, and check it out. These laid-back stores are great places to have fun browsing or buying. Upbeat dance music plays at **The Pleasure Chest,** in the West Village, as gay and straight shoppers check out neatly arranged displays of toys, lingerie, and bachelor/bachelorette party favorites like gummy boobs and penis-shaped pasta. **Condomania,** also in the West Village, is on a mission to make sure that everyone's condom is a perfect fit. In addition to a Technicolor range of domestic and imported prophylactics, the shop offers They-Fit Condoms in 55 custom sizes. **Toys in Babeland,** on the Lower East Side, is a friendly store devoted to providing a positive shopping experience for women.

Pamphlets explaining the products allow you to shop at your leisure without having to ask a lot of questions, but signs throughout the store ("We love silicone!!! Ask us why!") encourage customers to approach the staff for assistance when they're ready.

**Last-minute gifts that don't look cheap and desperate...** Nothing bites more than running around in a crazy panic looking for presents the day before you leave. But if you do find yourself in this situation, here are a few good outs. You can almost always find an elegant gift at Japanese department store **Takashimaya,** in Midtown. Try the bath department for perfumed soaps and lotions that aren't super expensive, or the basement tea salon for Japanese teas and French sweets. The Museum of Modern Art may have temporarily relocated to Queens, but the **MoMA Design Store** is still open at two Manhattan locations in Midtown and SoHo. Your best bet here is the clever, modern tablewear designed or inspired by contemporary artists like Philippe Starck and Frank Lloyd Wright. If you're not totally creeped out by the life-size skeletons and sinister-looking insects in the front window, venture inside **Maxilla & Mandible, Ltd.** on the Upper West Side. You'll be amazed by million-year-old fossils, *real* dinosaur teeth, luminous seashells, delicate butterflies, and the remains of other once-living things. Shop here for the loveable science nerds in your life or for certain friends with morbid personalities. Lovely **Kate's Paperie** in SoHo carries enough exquisite wrapping paper and glossy ribbon to make any last-minute purchase look like a sweet, thoughtful gift from your heart. And if you're still on the lookout for gifts, the store's stationery and date books make classy accessories for career types, while origami paper, calligraphy sets, and hole punches that make silly shapes are fun for anyone craftsy or creative.

# The Index



**ABC Carpet and Home (p. 184)** UNION SQUARE Six floors of furniture, textiles, and gift items both antique and new, plus rugs galore in their other building across the street.... *Tel 212/473-3000. www.abchome.com. 888 Broadway. N/R/Q/W, 4/5/6, or L trains to 14th St./Union Square. Open Mon–Thurs 10am–8pm, Fri–Sat 10am–6:30pm, Sun noon–6pm.*

**Academy Records & CDs (p. 185)** FLATIRON DISTRICT This shop has a cool intellectual air that's more reminiscent of a good used-book store than your average used-record store.... *Tel 212/242-3000. www.academy-records.com. 12 W. 18th St. N/R/W/Q, 4/5/6, or L trains to 14th St./Union Square. Open Mon–Sat 11:30am–8pm, Sun 11am–7pm.*

**A. Cheng (p. 172, 177)** EAST VILLAGE Women's clothes natty enough for work, laid-back enough for play.... *Tel 212/979-7324. www.achengshop.com. 443 W. 9th St. L train to First Ave. or 6 train to Astor Place. Open Mon–Fri noon–8pm, Sat–Sun noon–7pm.*

**Adidas Originals Store (p. 186)** SOHO '70s and '80s styles from the company that practically invented the tracksuit.... *Tel 212/777-2001. www.thestore.adidas.com. 136 Wooster St. N/R/W train to Prince St., F/V train to Broadway/Lafayette St., or 6 train to Bleecker St. Open Mon–Sat 11am–7pm, Sun noon–6pm.*

**Aedes de Venustas (p. 181)** WEST VILLAGE Little-known and hard-to-find scents are the specialty of the house.... *Tel 212/206-8674. www.aedes.com. 9 Christopher St. 1/9 train to Christopher St. or A/C/E or F/V train to W. 4th St. Open Mon–Sat noon–8pm, Sun 1–7pm.*

**Agent Provocateur (p. 180)** SOHO British lingerie too sexy too keep undercover.... *Tel 212/965-0229. www.agentprovocateur.com. 133 Mercer St. N/R/W train to Prince St., F/V train to Broadway/Lafayette St., or 6 train to Bleecker St. Open Mon–Sat 11am–7pm, Sun noon–6pm.*

**agnès b. homme** (p. 174) SOHO Handsome French styles for men.... *Tel 212/431-4339. www.agnesb.net. 79 Greene St. N/R/W train to Prince St. Open daily 11am–7pm. Other locations.*

**Albertine** (p. 176) WEST VILLAGE Women's clothes and accessories by local designers as yet undiscovered by the department stores.... *Tel 212/924-8515. 13 Christopher St. 1/9 train to Christopher St or A/C/E or F/V train to W. 4th St. Open Mon–Sat noon(ish)–8pm, Sun 1–7pm.*

**Alexander McQueen** (p. 171) MEAT-PACKING DISTRICT Dramatic designs from Britain's fashion wonderboy.... *Tel 212/645-1797. www.alexandermcqueen.net. 7 W. 14th St. A/C/E or L train to 14th St. Open Mon–Sat 11am–7pm, Sun 12:30–6pm.*

**Annex Antiques Fair & Flea Market** (p. 174) CHELSEA Don't be too shy to dicker at this massive year-round market.... *Tel 212/243-5343. Sixth Ave. and 26th St. F/V train to 23rd St. Open Sat–Sun sunrise to sunset (rain or shine).*

**Anthropologie** (p. 171, 176) SOHO Quirky clothes and lingerie with handsome details; also great home decor items, and good deals on the sale racks, too.... *Tel 212/343-7070. www.anthropologie.com. 375 W. Broadway. C/E train to Spring St. Open Mon–Wed 11am–8pm, Thurs–Sat 10am–8pm, Sun 11am–7pm. Other location.*

**Apartment 48** (p. 184) FLATIRON DISTRICT Browse the rooms of this mock apartment for interesting items to garnish your own place.... *Tel 212/807-1391. 48 W. 17th St. F/V or L train to Sixth Ave./14th St. Open Tues–Thurs 11am–8pm, Fri–Sat 11am–7pm, Sun 1–6pm. Closed Mon.*

**The Art of Shaving** (p. 180) MIDTOWN EAST Serious razors and old-fashioned shaving brushes, plus soaps, creams, and lotions for different skin types; visit the on-site barber for a shave and a haircut.... *Tel 212/986-2905. www.theartofshaving.com. 373 Madison Ave. 4/5/6 or 7 train to Grand Central. Open Mon–Fri 9:30am–6:30pm, Sat 10am–6pm. Closed Sun. Other locations.*

**Authentiques Past and Present** (p. 184) CHELSEA '50s lamps, ashtrays, and barware make you feel like you've stumbled across the Rat Pack's mini-storage vault.... *Tel 212/675-2179. www.fab-stuff.com. 255 W. 18th St. 1/9 train to 18th St. Open Wed–Sat noon–6pm, Sun 1–6pm. Closed Mon–Tues. Open daily during December.*

**Bang Bang** (p. 175) CHELSEA Studly T-shirt, jeans, and leather jackets.... *Tel 212/807-8457. www.bangbang.com. 147 Eighth*

*Ave. A/C/E or L train to Eighth Ave./14th St. Open Mon–Wed 11am–9pm, Thurs–Sat 11am–10pm, Sun noon–9pm. Other location.*

**Barbara Feinman** (p. 179) EAST VILLAGE Handmade hats; affordable jewelry, too.... *Tel 212/358-7092. www.feinmanhats.com. 66 E. 7th St. 6 train to Astor Place. Open Mon–Sat 12:30–8pm, Sun 1–7pm.*

**Barnes & Noble** (p. 186) UNION SQUARE A branch of the superchain, complete with a music department and a Starbuck's inside.... *Tel 212/253-0810. www.barnesandnoble.com. 33 E. 17th St. N/R/Q/W, 4/5/6, or L train to 14th St./Union Square. Daily 10am–10pm. Other locations.*

**Barneys New York** (p. 182) UPPER EAST SIDE The department store where everyone who's anyone shops (if they can afford it).... *Tel 212/826-8900. www.barneys.com 660 Madison Ave. N/R/W train to Fifth Ave./59th St. Open Mon–Fri 10am–8pm, Sat 10am–7pm, Sun 11am–6pm.*

**Bergdorf Goodman** (p. 170, 182) MIDTOWN EAST An upper-crust department store in a landmark building.... *Tel 212/753-7300. www.bergdorfgoodman.com. 754 Fifth Ave. N/R/W train to Fifth Ave./59th St. Open Mon–Wed and Fri–Sat 10am–7pm, Thurs 10am–8pm, Sun noon–6pm.*

**Big Drop** (p. 176) SOHO Women's clothes for hanging out or hitting the bar scene.... *Tel 212/226-9292. www.bigdropnyc.com. 425 West Broadway. Spring St. C/E train to Spring St. Open daily 11am–8pm. Other locations.*

**Bleecker Bob's** (p. 185) GREENWICH VILLAGE A formerly legendary music store, gone downhill.... *Tel 212/475-9677. www.bleeckerbobs.com. 118 W. 3rd St. A/C/E or F/V train to W. 4th St. Open Sun–Thurs noon–1am, Fri–Sat noon–3am.*

**Bloomingdale's** (p. 181) UPPER EAST SIDE A classy department store that's always au courrant.... *Tel 212/705-2000. www.bloomingdales.com. 1000 3rd Ave. N/R/W or 4/5/6 train to Lexington Ave./59th St. Open Mon–Fri 10:am–8:30pm, Sat 10am–7pm, Sun 11am–7pm.*

**Bodum** (p. 184) MEAT-PACKING DISTRICT Coffee presses, teapots, and other handy kitchen stuff in cool, functional glass and stainless steel; the same clean design applies to porcelain dinnerwear and colorful desk accessories.... *Tel 212/367-9125. www.bodum.com. 413-415 W. 14th St. A/C/E or L train to Eighth Ave./14th St. Open Mon–Sat 10am–7pm, Sun noon–6pm.*

**Borders** (p. 186) MIDTOWN EAST Part of the Borders/Waldenbooks chain featuring books and music galore.... *Tel 212/980-6785. www.bordersstores.com. 461 Park Ave. 4/5/6 or N/R/W train to Lexington Ave./59th St. Open Mon–Fri 9am–10pm, Sat 10am–8pm, Sun 11am–8pm. Other locations.*

**Brooks Brothers** (p. 175) MIDTOWN EAST Classic suits and ties for clean-cut guys.... *Tel 212/682-8800. www.brooksbrothers.com. 346 Madison Ave. 4/5/6 or 7 train to Grand Central. Open Mon–Wed and Fri–Sat 9am–7pm, Thurs 9am–8pm, Sun noon–6pm. Other locations.*

**Calvin Klein** (p. 170) UPPER EAST SIDE High-end, minimalist fashion and home decor.... *Tel 212/292-9000. 654 Madion Ave. N/R/W train to Fifth Ave./59th St. Open Mon–Wed and Fri–Sat 10am–6pm, Thurs 10am–7pm, Sun noon–6pm.*

**Calypso** (p. 176) NOLITA Island clothes and colors for the beach or the street.... *Tel 212/965-0990. 280 Mott St. F/V train to Broadway/Lafayette St. Open Mon–Sat 11am–7pm, Sun noon–7pm. Other location.*

**Camper** (p. 178) SOHO Walk a mile (or 20 city blocks) in these casual shoes for men and women.... *Tel 212/358-1842. www.camper.com. 125 Prince St. N/R/W train to Prince St. Open Mon–Sat 11am–8pm, Sun noon–6pm.*

**Caswell-Massey** (p. 181) MIDTOWN EAST Perfumes and colognes dabbed on by the likes of George Washington and Dolley Madison since 1752.... *Tel 212/755-2254. www.caswellmassey.com. 518 Lexington Ave. E or V train to Lexington Ave./53rd St. or 6 train to 51st St. Open Mon–Fri 8am–7pm, Sat 10am–6pm, Sun noon–5pm.*

**Century 21** (p. 173) FINANCIAL DISTRICT This massive discount store is still going strong with bargains, bargains, bargains.... *Tel 212/227-9092. c21stores.com. 22 Cortlandt St. A/C, J/M/Z, 2/3, or 4/5 to Fulton St./Broadway Nassau. Open Mon–Wed and Fri 7:45am–8pm, Thurs 7:45am–8:30pm, Sat 10am–8pm, Sun 11am–7pm.*

**Chanel** (p. 170) MIDTOWN EAST French high fashion, with trademark fringe, quilting, and interlocking C's everywhere.... *Tel 212/355-5050. www.chanel.com. 15 E. 57th St. N/R/W train to Fifth Ave./59th St. Open Mon–Wed and Fri–Sat 10am–6:30pm, Thurs 10am–7pm, Sun noon–5pm. Other locations.*

**Christian Louboutin** (p. 177) UPPER EAST SIDE Gorgeous shoes with devilish red soles.... *Tel 212/396-1884. 941 Madison Ave. 6 train to 77th St. Open Mon–Sat 10am–6pm. Closed Sun.*

**Christie's (p. 183)** ROCKEFELLER CENTER Join the bidding (or just watch) at this premier auction house.... *Tel 212/636-2000. www.christies.com. 20 Rockefeller Plaza. B/D/F/V train to Rockefeller Center. Call or check the website for events schedule.*

**Club Monaco (p. 171, 177)** FLATIRON DISTRICT Clean-lined basics for men and women.... *Tel 212/352-0936. www.clubmonaco.com. 160 Fifth Ave. N/R/W train to 23rd St. Open Mon–Sat 10am–8pm, Sun 11am–7pm. Other locations.*

**Coach (p. 178)** MIDTOWN EAST High-quality, long-wearing leather bags.... *Tel 212/754-0041. www.coach.com. 595 Madison Ave. N/R/W train to Fifth Ave./59th St. Open Mon–Sat 10am–8pm, Sun 11am–6pm. Other locations.*

**C. O. Bigelow (p. 180)** GREENWICH VILLAGE It may look like the kind of place that only sells camphor-scented "tonics," but it's actually well stocked with the best skincare products from around the globe.... *Tel 800/793-5433. www.bigelowchemists.com 414 Sixth Ave. A/C/E or F/V train to W. 4th St. Open Mon–Fri 7:30am–9pm, Sat 8:30am–7pm, Sun 8:30am–5:30pm.*

**Coliseum Books (p. 185)** MIDTOWN WEST One of the few independent bookstores big enough to compete with the major chains.... *Tel 212/803-5890. www.coliseumbooks.com. 11 W. 42nd St. B/D/F/V to 42nd St. Open Mon–Fri 8am–10pm, Sat 11am–10pm, Sun noon–7pm.*

**Colony Music Center (p. 185)** MIDTOWN WEST New CDs, vintage records, and reams of sheet music.... *Tel 212/265-2050. www.colonymusic.com. 1619 Broadway. 1/9 train to 50th St. or N/R/W train to 49th St. Open daily 10am–midnight.*

**Condomania (p. 186)** WEST VILLAGE The best selection of condoms this side of Bangkok.... *Tel 212/691-9442. www.condomania.com. 351 Bleecker St. 1/9 to Christopher St. Sun–Thur 11am–11pm, Fri–Sat 11am–midnight.*

**Costança Basto (p. 177)** WEST VILLAGE Sexy pumps and strappy sandals in a cushy jewel-box boutique.... *Tel 212/645-3233. www.constancabasto.com. 573 Hudson St. A/C/E or L train to Eighth Ave./14th St. or 1/9 train to Christopher St. Open Tues–Sat 11am–7pm, Sun noon–6pm. Closed Mon.*

**Crate & Barrel (p. 170)** UPPER EAST SIDE Glassware, lamps, rugs, and other accessories for upwardly mobile professionals.... *Tel 212/308–0011. www.crateandbarrel.com. 650 Madison Ave. N/R/W train to Fifth Ave./59th St. Open Mon–Fri 10am–8pm, Sat 10am–7pm, Sun noon–6pm. Other location.*

**Creed** **(p. 181)** NOHO Once a perfumer to the courts of Queen Victoria and Empress Eugénie, the company continues the tradition of expertly crafted scents for men and women.... *Tel 212/228-1940. www.parfumscreed.com. 9 Bond St. 6 train to Bleecker St. or F/V train to Broadway/Lafayette St. Open Mon–Sat 11:30am–8pm, Sun noon–6pm. Other location.*

**Daffy's** **(p. 173)** FLATIRON DISTRICT Brand-name bargains for men, women, and children.... *Tel 212/529-4477. www.daffys.com. 111 5th Ave. N/R/W train to 23rd St. Open Mon–Sat 10am–9pm, Sun noon–7pm. Other locations.*

**Dernier Cri** **(p. 176)** MEAT-PACKING DISTRICT Edgy and eclectic women's labels.... *Tel 212/242-6061. www.d-cri.com. 869 Washington St.. A/C/E or L train to 14th St. Open Sun–Mon noon–7pm, Tues–Sat noon–8pm.*

**Destination** **(p. 179)** MEAT-PACKING DISTRICT European accessories that are pricey, but worth it.... *Tel 212/727-2031. www.destinationny.net. 32-36 Little West 12th St. A/C/E or L train to Eighth Ave./14th St. Open Mon–Sat 11am–8pm, Sun noon–7pm.*

**The Diamond District** **(p. 179)** MIDTOWN EAST This famous neighborhood is home to thousands of dealers offering diamond rings, loose gems, estate jewelry, and much more.... *www.47thstreet.com. 47th St. between Fifth and Sixth aves. Some establishments closed Fri evening and Sat.*

**Diane Von Furstenberg** **(p. 171)** WEST VILLAGE Dresses (including the signature wrap dress), blouses, and skirts in great patterns.... *Tel 646/486-4800. www.dvf.com. 385 W. 12th St. A/C/E or L train to Eighth Ave./14th St. Open Tues–Wed and Fri 11am–7pm, Thurs 11am–8pm, Sat 11am–6pm, Sun noon–5pm. Closed Mon.*

**The Disney Store** **(p. 184)** TIMES SQUARE Tons of merchandise featuring Mickey, Minnie, and all the Disney movie characters.... *Tel 212/302-0595. disney.store.go.com. 218 W. 42nd St. N/R/Q/W, 1/2/3/9, or 7 train to Times Square. Open Daily 10am–11pm. Tel 212/702-0702. 711 5th Ave. E or V train to 5th Ave./53rd St. Open Mon–Sat 10am–8pm, Sun 11am–6pm.*

**The Drama Book Shop** **(p. 185)** MIDTOWN WEST The ultimate source for plays and theater books.... *Tel 212/944-0595. www.dramabookshop.com. 250 W. 40th St. A/C/E train to 42nd St. Open Mon–Sat 10am–8pm, Sun noon–6pm.*

**Dylan's Candy Bar** **(p. 184)** UPPER EAST SIDE Every imaginable kind of candy, including olde-tyme favorites, like Charleston

Chew, and new ones, like a tequila-flavored sucker *with* worm.... *Tel 646/735-0078. www.dylanscandybar.com. 1011 Third Ave. N/R/W or 4/5/6 train to Lexington Ave./59th St. Open Mon–Thurs 11am–9pm, Fri–Sat 11am–11pm, Sun 11am–7pm.*

**Eastern Mountain Sports** **(p. 186)** SOHO Outfits backpackers, hikers, and other outdoor enthusiasts.... *Tel 212/966-8730. www.ems.com. 591 Broadway, F/V train to Broadway/Lafayette St., 6 train to Bleecker St., or N/R/W train to Prince St. Open Mon–Fri 10am–9pm, Sat 10am–8pm, Sun noon–6pm. Other location.*

**Elizabeth Charles** **(p. 176)** WEST VILLAGE It looks like a real estate office, but you've actually come to the right place for hard-to-find Australian labels for women.... *Tel 212/243-3201. www.elizabethcharles.com. 117 Perry St. A/C/E or L train to Eighth Ave./14th St. or 1/9 train to Christopher St. Open Tues–Wed 4:30–7:30pm, Thurs–Sat noon–7:30pm, Sun noon–6:30pm. Closed Mon.*

**The Enchanted Forest** **(p. 184)** SOHO Handmade toys (plus a few manufactured ones) sold in a magical atmosphere.... *Tel 212/925-6677. 85 Mercer St. N/R/W train to Prince St. Open Mon–Sat 11am–7pm, Sun noon–6pm.*

**Eugenia Kim** **(p. 179)** EAST VILLAGE Super-hip hats ranging from shy to sly.... *Tel 212-673-9787. www.eugeniakim.com. 203 E. 4th St. F/V train to Second Ave. Open Mon–Fri 10am–8pm, Sat noon–7pm, Sun 1–7pm.*

**FAO Schwarz** **(p. 184)** MIDTOWN EAST The first and last word in toys.... *Tel 212/644-9400. www.fao.com. 767 Fifth Ave. N/R/W train to Fifth Ave./59th St. Open Mon–Sat 10am–9pm, Sun 11am–7pm.*

**Find Outlet** **(p. 173)** CHELSEA Few walk out of this women's discount boutique empty-handed.... *Tel 212/243-3177. www.findoutlet.com. 361 W. 17th St. A/C/E or L train to Eighth Ave./14th St. Open Thurs–Sun noon–7pm. Closed Mon–Wed. Tel 212/226-5167. 229 Mott St. F/V train to Broadway/Lafayette St. or 6 train to Bleecker St. Open daily noon–7pm.*

**Floris London** **(p. 181)** UPPER EAST SIDE We know James Bond likes his martini shaken, not stirred, but who knew his preferred scent was Floris's No. 89? Women's scents, bath products, and home fragrances available, too.... *Tel 212/935-9100. www.florislondon.com. 703 Madison Ave. N/R/W train to Fifth Ave./59th St. Open Mon–Wed and Fri–Sat 10am–6pm, Thurs 10am–7pm. Closed Sun.*

**Foley & Corinna** **(p. 175)** LOWER EAST SIDE Dares women to combine new designs with vintage finds.... *Tel 212/529-2338. www.*

*foleyandcorinna.com. 108 Stanton St. F/V train to Second Ave. or J/M/Z or F train to Delancy St./Essex St. Open Mon–Fri 1–8pm, Sat–Sun noon–8pm.*

**Forbidden Planet** **(p. 185)** UNION SQUARE Comics, toys, and collectibles for sci-fi and fantasy fans.... *Tel 212/473-1576. 840 Broadway. N/R/W/Q, 4/5/6, or L train to Union Square. Open Mon–Sat 10am–10pm, Sun 11am–8pm.*

**Fragments** **(p. 180)** SOHO Unusual jewelry in diverse shapes, materials, and finishes.... *Tel 212/334-9588. www.fragments.com. 116 Prince St. N/R/W to Prince St. Open Mon–Sat 11am–7pm, Sun noon–6pm.*

**Generation Records** **(p. 185)** GREENWICH VILLAGE CD store specializing in hard-core, punk, and heavy metal; despite the help's tough look, they're actually quite friendly and helpful.... *Tel 212/254-1100. 210 Thompson St. A/C/E or F/V train to W. 4th St. Open Mon–Thurs 11am–10pm, Fri–Sat 11am–1am, Sun noon–10pm.*

**Gerry's** **(p. 175)** CHELSEA Hip, relaxed casualwear for guys.... *Tel 212/243-9141. 110 Eighth Ave. A/C/E or L train to Eighth Ave./14th St. Open Mon–Fri 11am–8pm, Sat 11am–9pm, Sun noon–6pm. Other location.*

**Global Table** **(p. 184)** SOHO Sleek tablewear from around the world.... *Tel 212/431-5839. www.globaltable.com. 107-109 Sullivan. C/E train to Spring St. Open Mon–Sat noon–7pm, Sun noon–6pm.*

**Gotham Book Mart** **(p. 184)** MIDTOWN WEST Used and new volumes in a bibliophile's Midtown oasis.... *Tel 212/719-4448. 41 W. 47th St. B/D/F/V train to Rockefeller Center. Open Mon–Fri 9:30am–6:30pm, Sat 9:30am–6pm. Closed Sun.*

**Gucci** **(p. 170)** MIDTOWN EAST Sleek, sexy looks from Tom Ford involving lots of black and lots of leather.... *Tel 212/826-2600. www.gucci.com. 685 Fifth Ave. E or V train to Fifth Ave./53rd St. Open Mon–Wed and Fri 10am–6:30pm, Thurs and Sat 10am–7pm, Sun noon–6pm. Other location.*

**H&M** **(p. 177)** MIDTOWN EAST Low cost, hip clothes for men, women, and children.... *Tel 212/489-0390. www.hm.com. 640 Fifth Ave. E or V train to Fifth Ave./53rd St. Open Mon–Fri 10am–8pm, Sat 10am–9pm, Sun 11am–7pm. Other locations.*

**Henri Bendel** **(p. 182)** MIDTOWN EAST If a designer dress is beyond your budget, buy something small in the cosmetics department and you still walk out with a trademark brown-and-white shopping

bag.... *Tel 212/247-1100. www.henribendel.com. 712 5th Ave. N/R/W train to Fifth Ave./59th St. Open Mon–Wed and Fri–Sat 10am–7pm, Thurs 10am–8pm, Sun noon–6pm.*

**Hollywould** **(p. 177)** NOLITA Kitten-heel, open-toe slides traditionally favored on the West Coast, plus boots and pumps for East Coast girls.... *Tel 212/343-8344. www.ilovehollywould.com. 198 Elizabeth St. 6 train to Spring St. Open Mon–Sat 11:30am–7:30pm. Closed Sun.*

**Hotel Venus by Patricia Field** **(p. 175)** SOHO Outrageous attire for women and men from New York fashion icon Patricia Field (did we mention she's the costume maven behind *Sex and the City*?).... *Tel 212/966-4066. www.patriciafield.com. 382 West Broadway. C/E train to Spring St. Open Mon–Wed and Sun 11am–8pm, Thurs–Sat 11am–9pm.*

**Intermix** **(p. 176)** FLATIRON This women's boutique gathers the most popular labels in one place.... *Tel 212/533-9720. www.intermix-ny.com. 125 Fifth Ave. N/R/W train to 23rd St. Open Mon–Sat 11am–8pm, Sun noon–7pm. Other locations.*

**Jack Spade** **(p. 178)** SOHO Briefcases and messenger bags that seem to make any guy look like a journalist or an architect.... *Tel 212/625-1820. www.jackspade.com. 56 Greene St. N/R/W/Q, J/MZ, or 6 train to Canal St. Open Mon–Sat 11am–7pm, Sun noon–6pm.*

**Jazz Record Center** **(p. 185)** CHELSEA Rare jazz records, CDs, and jazz memorabilia.... *Tel 212/675-4480. www.jazzrecordcenter.com. 236 W. 26th St., 8th floor. 1/9 train to 28th St. Open Mon–Sat 10am–6pm. Closed Sun.*

**Jeffery New York** **(p. 182)** MEAT-PACKING DISTRICT Elite designer fashions for men and women—especially shoes.... *Tel 212/206-1272. 449 W. 14th St. A/C/E or L train to Eighth Ave./14th St. Open Mon–Fri 10am–8pm, Sat 10am–7pm, Sun noon–6pm.*

**Jimmy Choo** **(p. 177)** UPPER EAST SIDE Flattering heels that were a recurring character on *Sex and the City*.... *Tel 212/759-7078. www.jimmychoo.com. 716 Madison Ave. F train to Lexington Ave./63rd St. Open Mon–Sat 10am–7pm, Sun noon–6pm. Other location.*

**John Fluevog Shoes** **(p. 178)** NOLITA Funky, chunky, and slick shoes and boots.... *Tel 212/431-4484. www.fluevog.com. 250 Mulberry St. 6 train to Spring St. Open Mon–Sat noon–8pm, Sun noon–6pm.*

**John Varvatos** (p. 174) SOHO Handsome, tailored looks for men with a laid-back smoothness.... *Tel 800/689-0151. www.johnvarvatos.com. 149 Mercer St. F/V train to Broadway/Lafayette St., 6 train to Bleecker St., or N/R/W train to Prince St. Open Mon–Sat 11am–7pm, Sun noon–6pm.*

**Jo Malone** (p. 181) FLATIRON DISTRICT Deceptively simple scents to mix and match at your discretion.... *Tel 212/673-2220. www.jomalone.com. 949 Broadway. N/R/W train to 23rd St. Open Mon–Sat 10am–8pm, Sun noon–6pm.*

**Jonathan Adler** (p. 184) SOHO Everything in this store whispers "touch me"—cool ceramics and warm textiles with strangely organic, graphic patterns.... *Tel 212/941-8950. www.jonathanadler.com. 47 Greene St. N/R/W/Q, J/MZ, or 6 train to Canal St. Open Mon–Sat 11am–7pm, Sun noon–6pm.*

**Jutta Neumann New York** (p. 179) LOWER EAST SIDE Handcrafted bags and shoes in rich colors.... *Tel 212/982-7048. www.juttaneumann-newyork.com. 158 Allen St. F or J/M/Z train to Delancy St./Essex St. Open Mon–Sat noon–8. Closed Sun.*

**Kate Spade** (p. 178) SOHO Handbags and small leather goods with a dash of late 1950s/early 1960s nostalgia.... *Tel 212/274-1991. www.katespade.com. 454 Broome St. N/R/W/Q, J/MZ, or 6 train to Canal St. Open Mon–Sat 11am–7pm, Sun noon–6pm.*

**Kate's Paperie** (p. 187) SOHO All things papery, from stationery and wrapping paper to artsy craft supplies.... *Tel 212/941-9816. www.katespaperie.com. 561 Broadway. N/R/W train to Prince St. Open Mon–Fri 10am–7:30pm, Sat 10am–7pm, Sun 11am–7pm. Other locations.*

**Kiehl's** (p. 180) CHELSEA Beauty aids, since 1851.... *Tel 212/677-3171. www.kiehls.com. 109 Third Ave. L train to Third Ave. Open Mon–Sat 10am–7pm, Sun noon–6pm.*

**Kitchen Arts & Letters** (p. 185) UPPER EAST SIDE Cookbooks are just the start of the store's vast selection of works related to all things edible.... *Tel 212/876-5550. 1435 Lexington Ave. 6 train to 96th St. Open Mon 1–6pm, Tues–Fri 10am–6:30pm, Sat 11am–6pm. Closed Sun.*

**La Cafetière** (p. 184) CHELSEA Country French soaps, linens, and dishes.... *Tel 646/486-0667. www.la-cafetiere.com. 160 Ninth Ave. C/E train to 23rd St. Open Sun–Mon noon–7pm, Tues–Sat 10am–8pm.*

**La Perla** (p. 180) UPPER EAST SIDE Fine Italian lingerie.... *Tel 212/570-0050. 777 Madison Ave. F train to Lexington Ave./63rd St., or 6 train to 68th St. Open Mon–Wed and Fri–Sat 10am–6pm, Thurs 10am–7pm, Sun noon–5pm. Other location.*

**La Petite Coquette** (p. 180) GREENWICH VILLAGE Traditional lingerie—lacy, racy, and European.... *Tel 212/473-2478. 51 University Place. N/R/W to 8th St. Open Mon–Wed 11am–7pm, Thurs 11am–8pm, Fri–Sat 11am–7pm, Sun noon–6pm.*

**Le Corset by Selima** (p. 180) SOHO This tiny brick-lined store feels like a lingerie model's walk-in closet.... *Tel 212/334-4936. 80 Thompson St. C/E train to Spring St. Open Mon–Wed and Fri 11am–7pm, Thurs and Sat noon–8pm, Sun noon–7pm.*

**Loehmann's** (p. 173) CHELSEA Five stories of discount men's and women's designer clothes, shoes, and accessories.... *Tel 212/352–0856. www.loehmanns.com. 101 Seventh Ave. 1/9 train to 18th St. Open Mon–Sat 9am–9pm, Sun 11am–7pm.*

**Lord & Taylor** (p. 181) MIDTOWN EAST A reserved but still stylish department store with an emphasis on American fashion.... *Tel 212/391-3344. 424 Fifth Ave. B/D/F/V train to 42nd St., or 7 train to Fifth Ave. Open Mon and Sat 10am–7pm, Tues 9am–8:30pm, Wed–Fri 10am–8:30pm, Sun 11am–7pm.*

**MAC** (p. 180) WEST VILLAGE Take your pick from shimmery, glossy, or perfectly matte cosmetics in daring shades.... *Tel 212/243-4150. www.maccosmetics.com. 14 Christopher St. 1/9 train to Christopher St. Open Mon–Sat 11am–7pm, Sun noon–6pm. Other locations.*

**Macy's** (p. 170, 181) HERALD SQUARE Like your favorite regular department store only much, much bigger.... *Tel 212/695–4400. www.macys.com. 151 W. 34th St. 1/2/3/9 trains to 34th St./Penn Station or B/D/F/V or N/R/W/Q train to 34th St./Herald Square. Open Mon–Sat 10am–8:30pm, Sun 11am–7pm.*

**Manhattan Portage** (p. 178) EAST VILLAGE Sporty, reliable, and hip messenger bags for all your toting needs.... *Tel 212/995-5490. www.manhattanportage.com. 333 E. 9th St. 6 train to Astor Place. Open Mon–Tues noon–7pm, Wed–Sat noon–8pm, Sun noon–7pm. Other location.*

**Manolo Blahnik** (p. 177) MIDTOWN WEST Intimidate or captivate in these seriously high, seriously expensive heels.... *Tel 212/582-3007. 31 W. 54th St. E or V train to Fifth Ave./53rd St. Open Mon–Fri 10:30am–6pm, Sat 10:30am–5:30pm. Closed Sun.*

**Marc Jacobs** **(p. 174)** SOHO Intentionally slouchy designer menswear and mod women's styles.... *Tel 212/343-1490. www.marcjacobs.com. 163 Mercer St. F/V train to Broadway/Lafayette St. 6 train to Bleecker St., or N/R/W train to Prince St. Open Mon–Sat 11am–7pm, Sun noon–6pm.*

**Marc by Marc Jacobs** **(p. 171)** WEST VILLAGE The designer's secondary line, with (slightly) more affordable sweaters, jackets, and denim.... *Tel 212/924-0026. www.marcjacobs.com. 403-405 Bleecker St. 1/9 train to Christopher St. Open Mon–Sat noon–8, Sun noon–7pm.*

**Martin** **(p. 176)** EAST VILLAGE Women's tops and jeans with a downtown utilitarian feel.... *Tel 212/358-0011. www.martineastvillage.com. 206 E. 6th St. 6 train to Astor Place. Open Tues–Sun 1pm–7pm. Closed Mon.*

**Matthew Marks Gallery** **(p. 171)** CHELSEA A longtime resident of Chelsea's gallery neighborhood.... *Tel 212/243-0200. www.matthewmarks.com. 523 W. 24th St. C/E train to 23rd St. Open Tues–Sat 10am–6pm. Closed Sun. Other locations.*

**Maxilla & Mandible, Ltd.** **(p. 187)** UPPER WEST SIDE Like poking around the set of an Indiana Jones movie—all the skeletons, scarabs, and fossils you could want.... *Tel 212/724-6173. www.maxillaandmandible.com. 451 Columbus Ave. B or C train to 81st St. Open Mon–Sat 11am–7pm, Sun 1–5pm.*

**Miss Sixty** **(p. 176)** SOHO Women's clothes at the West Broadway store have a pop vibe, while the Mulberry Street store is more downtown edgy.... *Tel 212/334-9772. 386 W. Broadway. C/E train to Spring St. Open Mon–Sat 11am–8pm, Sun 11am–7pm. Tel 212/431-6040. www.misssixty.com. 246 Mulberry St. 6 train to Spring St. Open Mon-Wed noon–7:30pm, Thurs–Sat 11am–8pm, Sun 11am–7pm.*

**Miu Miu** **(p. 171)** SOHO Younger, quirkier styles for women from the designer of Prada.... *Tel 212/334-5156. 100 Prince St. N/R/W train to Prince St. Open Mon–Sat 11am–7pm, Sun noon–6pm. Other location.*

**Mixona** **(p. 180)** SOHO Forget Victorian—this store is all about sexy lingerie for women from this century.... *Tel 646/613-0100. 262 Mott St. F/V train to Broadway/Lafayette St. or 6 train to Bleecker St. Mon–Fri and Sun 11am–7:30pm, Sat 11am–8pm.*

**MoMA Design Store** **(p. 187)** MIDTOWN WEST Gifts for the home and men's and women's accessories based on the principles of

modern design.... *Tel 212/767-1050. www.momastore.org. 44 W. 53rd St. E or V train to Fifth Ave./53rd St. Open Mon–Thurs and Sat–Sun 10am–6:30pm, Fri 10am–8pm. Tel 646/613-1367. 81 Spring St. 6 train to Spring St. or N/R/W train to Prince St. Open Mon–Sat 11am–8pm, Sun 11am–6pm.*

**Mondo Kim's (p. 185)** EAST VILLAGE Indie music, also a must-visit video store for die-hard film fans.... *Tel 212/598-9985. www.kimsvideo.com. 6 train to Astor Place or N/R/W train to 8th St. Open daily 9am–midnight. Other locations.*

**Mr. Pink (p. 184)** WEST VILLAGE Jelly glasses, pink bakeware, and kooky salt and pepper shakers are just a few of the choice (but not cheap) vintage wares you'll find.... *Tel 646/486-4147. www.mrpinkinc.com. 223 W. 16th St. A/C/E or L train to Eighth Ave./14th St. or 1/9 train to 18th St. Open daily 11am–8pm.*

**Murder Ink (p. 186)** UPPER WEST SIDE The original mystery bookstore.... *Tel 212/362-8905. www.murderink.com. 2486 Broadway. 1/2/3/9 train to 96th St. Open Mon–Sat 10am–7:30pm, Sun 11am–6pm.*

**Mxyplyzyk (p. 184)** WEST VILLAGE Not Superman's nemesis from the fifth dimension, but a home decor store with cool, modern stuff for entertaining.... *Tel 212/989-4300. www.mxyplyzyk.com. 125 Greenwich Ave. A/C/E or L train to Eighth Ave./14th St. Open Mon–Sat 11am–7pm, Sun noon–5pm.*

**MyOptics (p. 179)** EAST VILLAGE They've got the faves—the Buddy Holly, the Clark Kent, and the Lisa Loeb—plus some newer frames.... *Tel 212/533-1577. www.myoptics.com. 42 St. Mark's Place. N/R/W train to 8th St. or 6 train to Astor Place. Open Mon–Fri 11am–7pm, Sat 11am–6pm, Sun noon–5pm. Other locations.*

**The NBA Store (p. 170, 186)** MIDTOWN EAST T-shirts, jerseys, and all kinds of other fan paraphernalia for NBA and WNBA teams.... *Tel 212/515-NBA1. www.nba.com. 666 Fifth Ave. E or V train to Fifth Ave./53rd St. Open Mon–Sat 10am–7pm, Sun 11am–6pm.*

**New York Adorned (p. 175)** EAST VILLAGE Tattoos, piercings, henna, and jewelry all in the same very chill atmosphere.... *Tel 212/473-0007. www.newyorkadorned.com. 47 Second Ave. F/V train to Second Ave. Open Sun–Thur 1–9pm, Fri–Sat 1–10pm.*

**Nickel (p. 180)** WEST VILLAGE Men's grooming products in macho brushed steel and cobalt blue packaging; call ahead for spa services.... *Tel 212/242-3203. www.nickelformen.com. 77 Eighth*

*Ave. A/C/E or L train to Eighth Ave./14th St. Open Sun–Mon 3–9pm, Tues–Sat 11am–9pm.*

**Nicole Miller** **(p. 171)** SOHO Sleek dresses to smart suits and separates for women.... *Tel 212/343-1362. www.nicolemiller.com. 134 Prince St. N/R/W train to Prince St. Open Mon–Sat 11am–7pm, Sun noon–6pm. Other location.*

**Niketown** **(p. 170, 186)** MIDTOWN EAST A veritable temple to sportswear.... *Tel 212/891-6453. niketown.nike.com. 6 E. 57th St. N/R/W train to Fifth Ave./59th St. Open Mon–Sat 10am–8pm, Sun 11am–7pm.*

**Olive & Bette's** **(p. 176)** SOHO Fun, happy-go-lucky women's clothes with a preppy streak.... *Tel 646/613-8772. www.oliveandbettes.com. 158 Spring St. C/E train to Spring St. Open daily 11am–7pm. Other locations.*

**Other Music** **(p. 185)** GREENWICH VILLAGE A great international music selection running the gamut from underground Japanese spin doctors to obscure Irish folk.... *Tel 212/477-8150. www.othermusic.com. 15 E. 4th St. F/V train to Broadway/Lafayette St. or 6 train to Bleecker St. Open Mon–Fri noon–9pm, Sat noon–8pm, Sun noon–7pm.*

**Otte** **(p. 176)** WEST VILLAGE A friendly boutique with hip women's clothes.... *Tel 212/229-9424. 121 Greenwich Ave. A/C/E or L train to 14th St. Open Mon–Sat noon–8pm, Sun noon–7pm.*

**The Otter** **(p. 176)** WEST VILLAGE From the name, you'd think the store would be stocked with water-proof windbreakers and wool socks, but women's clothes here are actually flirty and up-to-the-minute trendy.... *Tel 212/243-0284. 361 Bleecker St. 1/9 train to Christopher St. Open Mon–Sat noon–8pm, Sun noon–6pm.*

**Otto Tootsi Plohound** **(p. 178)** FLATIRON DISTRICT Imaginative, if expensive, shoes.... *Tel 212/460-8650. 137 Fifth Ave. N/R/W train to 23rd St. Open Mon–Fri 11:30am–7:30pm, Sat 11am–8pm, Sun noon–7pm. Other locations.*

**Paragon Sporting Goods** **(p. 186)** UNION SQUARE Equips every sport on the field, plus a few indoors, too.... *Tel 212/255-8036. www.paragonsports.com. 867 Broadway. N/R/W/Q, 4/5/6, or L train to Union Square. Open Mon–Sat 10am–8pm, Sun 11:30am–7pm.*

**Patagonia** **(p. 186)** SOHO Eco-conscious sports gear.... *Tel 212/343-1776. www.patagonia.com. 101 Wooster St. N/R/W train to*

*Prince St. Open Mon–Wed and Fri–Sat 11am–7pm, Thurs 11am–8pm, Sun noon–6pm. Other location.*

**Patch NYC** (p. 179) WEST VILLAGE Oak leaves and cartoon deer are favorite themes at this accessory store.... *Tel 212/807-1060. www.patchnyc.com 17 Eighth Ave. A/C/E or L train to 14th St./Eighth Ave. Open Tues–Sat noon–7pm.*

**Paul Smith** (p. 175) FLATIRON DISTIRICT It's not quite Austin Powers, but this high-end British clothier does inject stodgy menswear with a sense of humor.... *Tel 212/627-9770. www.paulsmith.co.uk. 108 Fifth Ave. F/V or L train to Sixth Ave./14th St. Open Mon–Wed and Fri–Sat 11am–7pm, Thurs 11am–8pm, Sun noon–6pm.*

**Paul Stuart** (p. 175) MIDTOWN EAST Traditional men's suits and Friday casualwear.... *Tel 212/682-0320. www.paulstuart.com. 350 Madison Ave. 4/5/6 or 7 train to Grand Central. Open Mon–Wed and Fri 8am–6:30pm, Thurs 8am–7pm, Sat 9am–6pm, Sun noon–5pm.*

**Pearl River Mart** (p. 182) SOHO Chinese clothing, housewares, groceries, and even a cafe.... *Tel 212/431-4770. www.pearlriver.com. 477 Broadway. N/R/W/Q, J/M/Z, or 6 train to Canal St. Open daily 10am–7:30pm. Other location.*

**Phat Farm** (p. 175) SOHO T-shirts, jeans, track suits, and outwear from rap mogul Russell Simmons, as well as styles from the Baby Phat line for women.... *Tel 212/533-7428. www.phatfarmstore.com. 129 Prince St. N/R/W train to Prince St. Open Mon–Wed 11am–7pm, Thurs–Sat 11am–8pm, Sun noon–7pm.*

**The Pleasure Chest** (p. 186) WEST VILLAGE A non-threatening boutique for adult toys.... *Tel 212/242-2158. www.adulttoyexpress.com. 156 Seventh Ave. S. 1/9 train to Christopher St. Open daily 10am–midnight.*

**Prada** (p. 170) MIDTOWN EAST Miuccia's knock-off inspiring hand bags and footwear—as well as this (and next) season's hottest trends.... *Tel 212/664-0010. 724 Fifth Ave. E or V train to Fifth Ave. 53rd St. Open Mon–Sat 10am–6pm, Sun noon–6pm. Other locations.*

**The Puma Store** (p. 186) SOHO Cool sportswear with new and vintage logos.... *Tel 212/334-7861. www.puma.com. 521 Broadway. N/R/W train to Prince St. Open Mon–Sat 10am–8pm, Sun 11am–7pm.*

**Rafe New York** (p. 178) GREENWICH VILLAGE Classic men's and women's leather bags with a fresh twist.... *Tel 800/486-9544. www.rafe.com. One Bleecker St. 6 train to Bleecker St. or F/V train to Broadway/Lafayette St. Open Tues–Thurs 11am–7pm, Fri 11am–8pm, Sat noon–8pm, Sun noon–7pm. Closed Mon.*

**Ralph Lauren** (p. 170) UPPER EAST SIDE Classic American prep in an 1890s mansion.... *Tel 212/606-2100. www.polo.com. 867 Madison Ave. 6 train to 68th St. Open Mon–Sat 10am–6pm, Sun noon–5pm. Other location.*

**Sacco** (p. 177) SOHO Italian shoes that won't kill your feet or blow your budget.... *Tel 212/925-8010. 111 Thompson St. C/E to Spring St. Open Mon–Fri 11am–8pm, Sat 11am–7pm, Sun noon–7pm. Other locations.*

**Saks Fifth Avenue** (p. 170, 182) MIDTOWN EAST A grand department store for the finer things.... *Tel 212/753-4000. www.saksfifthavenue.com. 611 Fifth Ave. E or V train to Fifth Ave./53rd St. Open Mon–Wed and Fri–Sat 10am–7pm, Thurs 10am–8pm, Sun noon–6pm.*

**The Scholastic Store** (p. 184) SOHO Books and toys to keep kids from annoying fellow passengers on the plane.... *Tel 212/343-6166. www.scholasticstore.com. 557 Broadway. N/R/W to Prince St. Open Mon–Sat 10am–7pm, Sun noon–6pm.*

**Scoop NYC** (p. 175, 176) MEAT-PACKING DISTRICT All the current trends for men and women.... *Tel 212/929-1244. www.scoopnyc.com. 873 Washington St. A/C/E or L train to 14th St. Open Mon–Fri 11am–8pm, Sat 11am–7pm, Sun noon–6pm. Other locations.*

**Searle** (p. 176) FLATIRON Women's clothes, from sporty to sophisticated.... *Tel 212/924-4330. www.searlenyc.com. 156 Fifth Ave. N/R/W train to 23rd St. Open Mon–Sat 11am–8pm, Sun noon–6pm. Other locations.*

**Seize sur Vingt** (p. 175) NOLITA Men's custom tailoring in a trendy downtown shop.... *Tel 212/343-0476. www.16sur20.com. 243 Elizabeth St. 6 train to Spring St. Open Mon–Wed and Fri–Sat 11am–7pm, Thurs 11am–8pm, Sun noon–6pm.*

**Selima Optique** (p. 179) SOHO Chic specs that look equally glamorous at the office or on the beach.... *Tel 212/343-9490. www.selimaoptique.com. 59 Wooster St. C/E to Spring St. Open Mon–Sat 11am–8pm, Sun noon–7pm. Other locations.*

**Sephora** (p. 180) TIMES SQUARE Men's and women's fragrances and beauty products. Most bang for your buck? Re-stock your makeup bag for cheap with the house brand cosmetics.... *Tel 212/944-6789. 1500 Broadway. N/R/W/Q, 1/2/3/9, or 7 train to Times Square. Open daily 10am–midnight. Other locations.*

**Sigerson Morrison** (p. 177) NOLITA Flats, pumps, and boots so popular women are often spotted there in the night, gazing wistfully through the metal gate across the window.... *Tel 212/219-3893. www.sigersonmorrison.com. 28 Prince St. 6 train to Spring St. Open Mon–Sat 11am–7pm, Sun noon–6pm.*

**Sorelle Firenze** (p. 176) TRIBECA Light-hearted clothes and beachwear from two Italian sisters.... *Tel 212/528-7816. www.sorellefirenze.com. 139 ½ Reade St.. 1/2/3/9 train to Chambers St. Open Mon–Sat 11am–7pm. Closed Sun.*

**Sotheby's** (p. 183) TRIBECA Check out the website for great tips for first-time auction attendees.... *Tel 212/606-7000. search.sothebys.com. 1334 York Ave. 6 train to 72nd St. Call or check the website for events schedule.*

**Stella McCartney** (p. 171) MEAT-PACKING DISTIRCT Designer women's wear from floaty to tailored.... *Tel 212/255-1556. www.stellamccartney.com. 429 W. 14th St. A/C/E or L train to Eighth Ave./14th St. Open Mon–Wed and Fri–Sat 11am–7pm, Thurs 11am–8pm, Sun 12:30–6pm.*

**Strand Book Store** (p. 185) UNION SQUARE Eight miles of books, new and used.... *Tel 212/473-1452. www.strandbooks.com. 828 Broadway. N/R/W/Q, 4/5/6, or L train to Union Square. Open Mon–Sat 9:30am–10:30pm, Sun 11am–10:30pm.*

**Takashimaya** (p. 187) MIDTOWN EAST A Japanese department store with impeccable taste.... *Tel 212/350-0100. 693 Fifth Ave. E or V train to Fifth Ave./53rd St. Open Mon–Sat 10am–7pm, Sun noon–5pm.*

**The Terence Conran Shop** (p. 182) UPPER EAST SIDE Hip furniture and home accessories from one of Britain's modern design pioneers.... *Tel 212/755-9079. www.conran.co.uk. 407 E. 59th St. N/R/W or 4/5/6 train to Lexington Ave./59th St. Open Mon–Fri 11am–8pm, Sat 10am–7pm, Sun noon–6pm.*

**TG-170** (p. 175) LOWER EAST SIDE Edgy designerwear for women.... *Tel 212/995-8660. www.tg170.com. 170 Ludlow St. F/V train to Second Ave. Open Daily noon–8pm.*

**Three Lives & Company** (p. 185) MIDTOWN EAST Downtown fiction specialist.... *154 W.10th St. F/V or L train to Sixth Ave./14th St. Open Mon–Tues noon–8pm, Wed–Sat 11am–8:30pm, Sun noon–7pm.*

**Tiffany & Co.** (p. 170, 179) MIDTOWN EAST A whole floor of engagement rings, plus silver, crystal, and stationery.... *Tel 212/755-8000. www.tiffany.com. 727 Fifth Ave. N/R/W train to Fifth Ave./59th St. Mon–Fri 10am–7pm, Sat 10am–6pm, Sun noon–5pm.*

**Tourneau** (p. 180) MIDTOWN EAST A huge selection of watches new and old.... *Tel 212/758-7300. 12 E. 57th St. N/R/W train to Fifth Ave./59th St. Open Mon–Wed and Fri–Sat 10am–6pm, Thurs 10am–7pm, Sun 11:30am–5:30pm. Other locations.*

**Tower Records** (p. 185) GREENWICH VILLAGE It may be a chain, but it has a good reputation for a broad and relatively deep selection.... *Tel 212/505-1500. www.towerrecords.com. 692 Broadway. 6 train to Astor Place or N/R/W train to 8th St. Open daily 9am–midnight. Other locations.*

**Tower Video** (p. 185) GREENWICH VILLAGE Videos and DVDs, as well as a large selection of international magazines and independent 'zines.... *Tel 212/505-1166. www.towerrecords.com. 383 Lafayette St. 6 train to Astor Place or N/R/W train to 8th St. Open daily 9am–midnight.*

**Toys in Babeland** (p. 186) LOWER EAST SIDE Sex toys for women—hold the sleaze.... *Tel 212/375-1701. www.babeland.com. 94 Rivington St. F/V train to Second Ave. Open Mon–Sat noon–10pm, Sun noon–7pm. Other location.*

**Toys "R" Us** (p. 184) TIMES SQUARE The chain's flagship store, complete with a 60-foot Ferris wheel.... *Tel 800/TOYSRUS. www.toysrus.com. 1514 Broadway. N/R/Q/W, 1/2/3/9, or 7 train to Times Square. Open Mon–Sat 10am–10pm. Sun 11am–8pm. Other locations.*

**Versace** (p. 170) UPPER EAST SIDE Sexy, bold, Italian high fashion.... *Tel 212/744-6868. www.versace.com. 815 Madison Ave. 6 train to 68th St. Open Mon–Sat 10am–6pm. Closed Sun. Other location.*

**Verve** (p. 179) WEST VILLAGE A surprising selection of cool handbags, jewelry, and men's and women's accessories squeezed into a tiny store.... *Tel 212/691-6516. 353 Bleecker St. 1/9 train to Christopher St. Open Mon–Sat 11am–8pm, Sun noon–6pm.*

**Village Tannery** (p. 178) GREENWICH VILLAGE Choose a leather bag off the shelf or have a custom-made one delivered to your door.... *Tel 212/979-0013 7 Great Jones St. F/V train to Broadway/Lafayette St. or 6 train to Bleecker St. Open Mon–Sat 11am–8pm, Sun 11am–7pm. Other location.*

**Virgin Megastore** (p. 185) TIMES SQUARE As if music, movies, and videogames weren't enough, this store ups the ante with a cafe, a movie theater, and an on-site travel agent.... *Tel 212/921-1020. www.virginmegamagazine.com. 1540 Broadway, Level 2. N/R/W/Q, 1/2/3/9, or 7 train to Times Square. Open Sun–Thurs 9am–1am, Fri–Sat 9am–2am. Other location.*

**X-Large** (p. 175) NOLITA Guys' generation X/Y clothes.... *Tel 212/334-4480. www.xlarge.com. 267 Lafayette St. 6 train to Spring St. Open Mon–Sat noon–7pm, Sun noon–6pm.*

**Zara** (p. 177) UPPER WEST SIDE Euro-chic on a budget.... *Tel 212/343-1725. www.zara.com. 580 Broadway. N/R/W train to Prince St., F/V train to Broadway/Lafayette St., or 6 train to Bleecker St. Open Mon–Sat 10am–8pm, Sun 10am–7pm. Other locations.*

**Zitomer** (p. 182) UPPER EAST SIDE A cosmetics counter, pharmacy, toy store, children's clothier, lingerie boutique, pet shop, and accessories store rolled into one.... *Tel 212/737-5560. www.zitomer.com. 969 Madison Ave. 6 train to 77th St. Open Mon–Fri 9am–8pm, Sat 9am–7pm, Sun 10am–6pm.*

# NIGH

# TLIFE

# 6

# Basic Stuff

It's a rare week indeed that I walk through the East Village or the Lower East Side and don't encounter some chic new bar or restaurant or lounge. The nightlife scene seems to evolve overnight, an old classic closes down only to have four new clubs rise up from the ashes. New nightlife meccas are also forming in NoLita, TriBeCa, and MePa (that's *No*rth of *Li*ttle I*ta*ly, the *Tri*angle *Be*low *Ca*nal, and the *Me*at-*Pa*cking District, though don't look for that last abbreviation to catch on; it's a little too ridiculous even for New York neighborhood standards). Whatever pushes your buttons, chances are you'll find someplace to go in New York. Whether you want to put on your top hat and twirl in an Art Deco ballroom, hang with skater kids, or delve into the seamy underside, there's a place for you...probably several places actually.

**Smokin'**

*In April 2003, a total ban on smoking in bars went into effect. The immediate result was a whole new scene: the clusters of smokers standing around in front of the bars. A person can mix and mingle now without even having to buy a drink. The owners of the trendy spots have a new dilemma. Their business is based on bringing in the models, who bring in their big-spending admirers. Since models can't eat or drink, they all chain smoke, and if smoking is banned, the exclusive clubs are in trouble. Many owners complain that receipts are way off since smoking was outlawed, but on a weekend night in New York it's hard to imagine how the scene could be any more hopping.*

Crowds spill out onto the streets in every New York neighborhood, and velvet ropes are back up outside the exclusive joints. There are also ropes outside some of the wannabe exclusive joints: A few of them keep a line in place to give the impression of being totally hot. Once you get inside and find the place nearly empty, you'll likely be more than a little annoyed. But the majority of New York nightlife buzz is legitimate, and despite recession, terrorism, and city crackdowns on all manner of perceived vices, it's doing more than surviving: It's thriving. A factor to be alert for: In the naughty-naughts, more and more New York clubs are taking a major thematic approach to their weekly schedules. What was clearly a straight scene on Monday night can be transformed into a queer extravaganza for Tuesday, from a relatively sedate evening of jazz-meets-rap on Thursday to a hard-core, house-mix frenzy on Friday. Some clubs even shift locations from night to night, with the site a

privileged secret among a select few hipsters at least until the word spreads, which it inevitably does. Make a couple of new friends on the dance floor, and your chances of being swept along for the ride increase. If the club gets too intense, there's Manhattan's burgeoning lounge scene to explore, where club-land intrigues can be pursued in vastly more subdued digs. Wind down the night at one of Manhattan's several notable after-hours eateries (see "Dining"); omelettes and coffee at 4am are as much a part of a quality clubbing experience as any dance hall pyrotechnics.

Two kinds of out-of-towners frequent the Manhattan nightlife scene. One group is tourists from across the country, or across the seas, adding their own sophistication to the existing cosmopolitan stew. They may dress a little different and their accents may be thick, but they're welcome additions to the scene. A second group carries the name "The B & T Crowd," in honor of the Bridges and Tunnels that bring them here. New Yorkers' homes become drunken playgrounds for B & T youths, many of whom treat Manhattan as a release valve for their week's tensions. The result is the snarky, condescending attitude adopted by many New Yorkers toward their suburban guests. In seeking out the cool nightlife, your hipster instincts may lead you to the West Village, or SoHo, or Chelsea. Unfortunately, these hip neighborhoods are often overrun by the B & T Crowd, especially on the weekends. Not that there aren't local haunts in these 'hoods, but to see mostly Manhattanite crowds you'll probably have better luck on a weeknight. Areas away from the city's center tend to have more authentic clientele. The Upper West Side has a young professionals scene centered around Amsterdam Avenue's haunts. Across town, the Upper East Side also has career-minded singles, as well as an older, affluent core of weekend partiers. Chelsea and the West Village couldn't be any gay-friendlier, and the East Village holds its own with an artier gay scene. Vacant real estate on the Lower East Side is turning almost daily into swanky lounges. Even Chinatown is becoming a nightlife destination. Black is the new black again this year (actually, black is in every year in NYC—think of it as our uniform). Dress dark and you can fit in just about anywhere. If you want to blend seamlessly into the East Village, maybe a Ché Guevara T-shirt and a mesh truckers cap. Cowboy boots, parkas, and pleated khakis will all mark you as an out-of-towner, but don't feel obligated to leave them at home. New York is big and diverse enough to accommodate infinite variations.

### Learning Your A, B, Cs

*The locals don't call it Alphabet City anymore (East Village or Loisaida, the Spanish pronunciation of Lower East Side, holds currency now), but more and more the fashionable crowds are learning the ins and outs of this once-forgotten part of town. The lettered avenues run north-south in a bulge of the island directly east of First Avenue. Avenue D is yet to be colonized, but no doubt it's just a matter of time before the cutting-edge nightspots start to open in the old tenements there. The area is a quick cab ride from most anywhere downtown, but the subways are a few blocks off, a factor in the neighborhood's former neglect (and one of the reasons rents were low enough for hipster experimenters to come in). The F train at Second Avenue will get you pretty close, and if you don't mind walking a ways the 6 train to Bleecker and the N/R train to 8th Street are decent alternatives. Avenues A, B, and C stay crowded at most hours (a little south on Ludlow Street, weekend evenings can look like there's a riot going on there're so many people walking around), and the number of people on the streets has dramatically increased with the smoking ban, so the area is now pretty safe. Some of the numbered blocks in-between the avenues aren't very well lit, and they can feel pretty sketchy late at night, so use your common sense. If anything seems off to you, don't hesitate to hail a cab and move on.*

New York is an expensive place to party—unless, of course, you've perfected the art of looking pretty and sullen, in which case you might find someone to pick up the tab. Covers can be outrageous at some of the clubs (depending on the *boite* and the act, if any, $5–$45 cover alone), and the drinks ridiculously priced. (***Here's a tip:*** As a rule, gay bars pour the strongest drinks.) But who cares? This is New York, where almost anyone can be a member of the club somewhere, and some people-watching scenes are well worth the price of a drink, even at these prices.

### Sources

The city's best nightlife source is without question *Time Out New York* magazine, which provides exhaustive (and often exhausting—just flipping through the overwhelming amount of options here can be fatiguing) listings on a weekly basis. The ever-reliable *Village Voice* does a better job of chronicling the music scene than the club world, but the weekly alternative tabloid still devotes a sizable chunk of its back pages to nightlife advertising, and scenester-diva Michael Musto's dishy gossip column "La Dolce Musto" often catches the club-trotting fabulous with their pants down. Free copies can be found in street-corner boxes, as well as at newsstands and in sympathetic bars and music stores. *Paper* magazine,

while not the club-goers' bible it once was, retains its voracious appetite for ferreting out the newest, gaudiest scenes. If your tastes run to drag queens and teenage urchins done up like extras in "Speed Racer: The Musical," the pages of *Paper* are a good place to turn. For the anything-goes set, the personals in *H/X (Homo-Extra)* and *Next* are always a treat. Those slim, usually free (though you might be charged $2.50 in NYC, $1.50 out of town) gay weeklies cover the queer club scene (which has become increasingly indistinguishable from the club scene at large) in roughly the same manner that *Playbill* reports on theater: succinctly and in an easy-to-carry size. For the sapphic equivalent, track down a copy of *Go NYC Magazine*. On occasion, the "Style" section of the Sunday *New York Times* glosses over a club event in the course of chasing another trend or tracking a mainstream celebrity. If you have any interest at all in where Madonna was last seen, this would be a good place to start. *New York Press* includes a Dance Clubs listing in its weekly summary of events—clipped and generally reliable, but not exactly fabulous. It's good for a very quick take on a place you've never been. Online, the best place to look is City Search, at www.citysearch.com.



### Liquor Laws

Despite rumors that the legal drinking age in New York City is 10, one can get busted for proffering a fake ID. Of course, if the clubs locked out all the underagers, their business would quickly evaporate, as would their cachet of youth chic. All-ages shows are one way that spaces get around the law. If you're not yet 21, New York State's legal drinking age, don't expect to get served once you get in. If you can't get in, go someplace else; chances are at least one benevolent doorman or bouncer somewhere will take a shine to the way you've worked your look. Some clubs offer special "smart drinks" for patrons who've depleted themselves on the dance floor: These nutrient-added beverages offer a quick fix for dehydration and decreased electrolytes, all without alcohol.

### Drugs

It used to be that the scent of marijuana cigarettes filled the air on New York streets, and inside more than a few music venues. In the new law-and-order New York, however, drug use has been driven behind closed doors. You probably won't see a joint in circulation, and sparking one of your own in public risks a weekend in the Tombs (aka the Manhattan House of

Detention). Behind closed bathroom stalls in the clubs, cocaine is still a drug of choice, although special K (ketamine) and ecstasy also help many a club-goer keep up with a hammering techno beat. It's part of the scene, so look the other way.

# The Lowdown

**Lounge acts...** Maybe it's a lingering nostalgia for bygone eras, or maybe it's something about the natural urbanity of the city, but classy lounges that make you feel as confident as a Gilded Age plutocrat are something that New York has always done well. Businessman John W. Campbell carved an Italianate office out of mezzanine space at Grand Central Terminal. One meticulous renovation later, and the **Campbell Apartment** has become *the* swanky spot for train-waiting commuters and their admirers. If drinking with the professional set is your idea of Hell, you might find more fun in **Hell.** This Meat-Packing District standby has a red-red-red interior, supple velvet, crystal chandeliers—everything but the flames of eternal damnation. A mixed gay-straight crowd lounges here. Each new version of **Merchants N.Y.** has literally outgrown lounge status, but they all have cozy Edwardian nooks with overstuffed armchairs and overheated fireplaces, decent wine lists, and palate-pleasing plates of baked chicken, sushi roll, or Thai dumplings. **Bar d'O,** in a charming nook of the West Village, has picked up an unlikely neighborhood with its version of lounge meets drag. On Tuesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays high-heeled, high-camp divas put on a torchy, intimate show. Nearby **Hudson Bar & Books** provides a swellegant setting to drop some serious cash. An extensive drink menu will let you show off your connoisseurship while cool jazz plays in the background. The classiest joint in NoHo is the **Temple Bar,** famous for its solicitous staff and gigantic martinis. Velvet drapes compliment the Deco decor, and the unmarked door adds to an exclusive feel (you'll know you're in the right place by the stencil-shaped lizards on the wall). If you lean more toward trendy elegance, SoHo's **Grand Bar** will convince you that your every remark is wonderfully witty, in a world-weary way. **Lansky Lounge,** so named because of its past life as the hangout of '20s gangster Meyer Lansky, brings Ol' Blue Eyes, swanky cocktails, and nouveau kosher cuisine served by waiters

in suits and spats to the Lower East Side. Look for the speakeasy-style entrance, marked only by an illuminated "L." Another good downtown lounge with an inauspicious entry is **Idlewild.** Pass through the imposing stainless steel door, and you'll enter a kitschy relic of the golden age of air transport (Kennedy Airport was called Idlewild until 1964). The booths in the front of the bar come straight from an airplane cabin, right down to seatbacks that assume the full upright position for landings.

**Beer here...** There are several microbreweries in Manhattan, but **Heartland Brewery** in Union Square has proved to be the most enduring, even endearing. The decor is so nostalgically faux-Americana, you feel like saluting the numerous flags. The brews are on the move, with new locations near Times Square, Radio City Music Hall, and the South Street Seaport, lest a tourist go thirsty. **Dba** in the East Village has a terrific rotating beer selection (and quite a few whiskies as well). There's an evolving pick-up scene here, but the crowd is mellow and unpretentious so it won't distract from your boozing. Weather permitting, there's a pleasant beer garden in the back, too. A few blocks up is **McSorley's,** a tiny, venerable East Village ale house that has retained its frat party air for over a century. Note the dust-engorged wishbones over the bar, left behind by neighborhood servicemen who were to retrieve them after the war but never made it home. Decisions about what to drink are easy here—it's either light ale or dark. The choices get a lot more complicated at the **Ginger Man,** with its 66 taps. The Midtown location attracts an affable, businessy crowd. In NoLITa, the **Spring Lounge** has good taps and even better windows, for watching the local Italians, Chinese, and hipsters go about their nightly business. For a low-key, authentic West Village neighborhood feel, try the **Barrow Street Ale House.** Great beer specials, passable pub grub (wings, burgers, fries), pool tables and darts in the basement, and friendly barkeeps make this the perfect spot to draw a deep breath and settle in at the bar for a few hours. If you prefer to think of your beer as an object of worship, you'll find like-minded monks at **Burp Castle.** Literally. Brothers in brown homespun robes serve as waiters, proffering a beer list with over 500 bottles and drafts. The castle is small and very quiet, as befits a house of worship.

**Gotta dance...** Manhattan's gentrifying urges took their toll on the city's dance scene. With drugs and clubs inextricably linked, the Guiliani administration set about shutting down some of the more flagrant violators. The result is the death of a few classic spots, but also the birth of some amazing new spaces. The old Limelight was a perfect symbol of New York decadence, drugged-out mayhem in a deconsecrated Chelsea church. New tenant **Avalon** has given the Gothic interior a sleek makeover with sections titled "Seduction," "Fantasy," and "Escape." If you can get past the pretension, it's an intriguing space and as Manhattan's newest dance club, novelty alone will keep it hot. Nightlife newcomer **Fun's** wild projection screens make it worth the trek to the odd location—an old garage under the Manhattan Bridge in the east end of Chinatown. An energetic young crowd fills this high-tech club space. From hot hot hot, **Nell's** has become almost as nostalgic as its plush Victorian decor. Sundays still attract everybody from visiting rock stars to suburbanites on a fling. Forget not **The Roxy,** whose venerable dance-hall walls in Chelsea shelter Rollerballs on Wednesday nights, a carnival of classic-disco-meets-in-line-skating-tricksterism—just don't call it a rink! Saturday nights at The Roxy belong to the longest-running gay dance party in the city (for unwheeled feet). The legendary fetish club Mother is now dearly departed, but the space it left behind isn't being put to waste: Long-time NYCDJ Tommy Frayne has opened up **Filter 14,** a house-heavy spot with a comfortable, casual feel. A young, friendly crowd is drawn to this corner of the hip Meat-Packing District. (The scene at newly relocated, mostly gay **Sound Factory** is supremely down and has been for years. Manhattan's hottest, most popular house mix makes it a must-stop if high-impact aerobic clubbing is why you came to town.) By comparison, the dancing is slightly less hardcore at **Centro-Fly,** but this new club still jumps. There's a very groovy sunken bar, a friendly vibe, and DJs like Junior Sanchez and Grandmaster Flash keeping the good sounds spinning. **Float,** in the Times Square area, looks like a Hollywood set designer's concept of a New York club, right down to the lit-from-below translucent dancing platform (you'll feel like you're floating). If you want to breeze past the rope, it helps to arrive with Leo or Jennifer (Britney Spears partied here on New Year's

Eve). **Cheetah** is as sleek as its celebrity clientele; nominally it's an upscale Italian eatery, but the jungle decor and circular waterfall give its nightclub agenda away. Expect to see gold to rival Fort Knox. **Exit** has enough room for you and 4,999 of your closest friends. With a jumbo-sized main floor atrium and 45,000 square feet to boogie through, it's not the most intimate place, though the VIP rooms upstairs help to compensate.

If you're looking for dance on a smaller scale, downtown has the options. The bodies press tight in tiny **Sapphire,** a dark East Village room built to sweat in. On the weeknights you'll find more hip-shaking room. Over on Avenue B, **Guernica** fills the space, if not the shoes, of dance legend Save the Robots. Pass through the restaurant and go down the stairs to find progressive DJs and an eclectic East Village crowd. In the West Village, a fun rowdy spot is **Automatic Slims.** A quiet neighborhood tavern early in the evening, after midnight the drinks come off the bar and the dancing feet go up. Baby boomers now have a place of their own, the upscale, relatively urbane **Decade** (which decade isn't specified: musically it could be '70s, '80s, or '90s). Decade plays good old rock 'n' roll and disco and serves halfway decent food to a sea of Uptown suits, from Boss to Chanel.

**Live and loud...** The future of rock 'n' roll is playing right now all over Downtown. On any given night, dozen of bands are filling the bills at dozens of clubs, mostly clustered around the East Village. The two best spots to listen are sister venues, The Bowery Ballroom and the Mercury Lounge. The **Bowery Ballroom** is a 500-head concert hall carved out of a former shoe store, with a cozy downstairs bar and cool balconies above the stage. The acts it attracts are generally big enough to play larger rooms; they just prefer the intimate feel and excellent sound. At the **Mercury Lounge** you won't see any evidence of the previous tenant, a tombstone shop, just audiophiles crowded into a big back room where the acoustics are terrific and the booking nothing short of amazing. Rising stars of rock and alternative country can be found here, often three or four bands per night. A couple of blocks away is **Arlene's Grocery,** which from the outside still looks like the humble bodega it replaced. The bands on Arlene's stage tend to project

confidence that they'll be inking major label deals soon, just so long as no one tells them they all sound exactly the same. The **Lakeside Lounge** on Avenue B has no lake views, but it does have a narrow side room where Steve Earle, Amy Allison, and Freedy Johnson have taken the stage. Never a cover, and during set breaks you can get a souvenir from the old-fashioned black-and-white photo booth. Rock 'n' roll's past passed through the doors of **CBGB's**, a dingy Bowery rathole. CB's hangs on as a historical curiosity, but the current booking is pretty monotonous, favoring underage bands with more volume than talent. The idea of this place ever producing another Talking Heads is, frankly, inconceivable. For an acoustic, folksy alternative, slip next door to **CB's 313 Gallery,** a clean, well-lighted place, at least in comparison to its older brother. Local country rockers round up at the **Rodeo Bar,** a classic honky-tonk right down to the peanut shells on the floor and the stuffed buffalo glowering over the bar. Brooklyn's neighborhoods are the new "in" addresses these days, and new music venues are popping up everywhere like mushrooms after a rain. In Williamsburg, **Pete's Candy Store** is one of the best places to listen on the wrong side of the East River. A front room holds a bar and a neighborhoody crowd and in the back is a narrow space devoted to ear candy. Never a cover charge. **Southpaw** in South Park Slope is a nice new place to listen to alternative bands. The room is big, there are plenty of stools and tables, and the booking rivals that of Manhattan's more established clubs.



**Live and not as loud...** **SOB's** (not an epithet, it stands for Sounds of Brazil) is bossa nova and world beat's headquarters this side of the equator; order a *caipirinha* (a Brazilian drink made from sugar cane) and settle in for a polyrhythmic night. **Zinc Bar** is a preeminent jazz/Latin/Brazilian spot, quite intimate and dimly lit, where the likes of Max Roach or Astrud Gilberto might drop by. **NoMoore** offers one of the most diverse musical menus in town, with various ethnic sounds, as well as jazz and blues. **B.B. King's** Times Square location is a warning that the place is geared toward tourists: steep ticket prices, creaky old bands, and a cramped layout that makes getting a drink a real headache. That said, the sound is good, and it's probably the best

place around to see a Doors tribute band. The **Village Underground** has adventurous booking, bringing in a few rock acts and more than a few top blues and R & B artists. Think R.L. Burnside, Otis Rush, and Solomon Burke. The Lower East Side's **Living Room** has relocated to a bigger bi-level space, but the atmosphere is unchanged: as casual as a friend's living room. Singer-songwriters and their low-key bands are the usual suspects found on stage here.

**For chic poseurs...** **Tenth Street Lounge** is where the East Village–chic set convenes nightly for stylish posing, though lately the joint has been colonized by out-of-towners toting Macy's bags. The desperately fashionable staff, however, continues to snub on an equal-opportunity basis. The always-trendy Bowery Bar is now known as the **B-Bar** and Grill (apparently the connotations of "Bowery" weren't quite swanky enough for the wannabe crowd). The old Gulf gas station has been totally tarted-up, with a ginormous walled garden off to the side. On the weekends expect a long, but very attractive, line in front. Gorky Park meets Park Avenue a few blocks away at multilevel **Pravda.** The vodka-drinking Concorde horde sports a hard, glossy, metallic sheen here. The **Bubble Lounge,** a club dedicated to champagne, is every bit as pretentious as its name. Patrons pretend to be TriBeCa residents while dining on caviar and foie gras. The trendier-than-thou lower Park Avenue eatery **Lemon** sucks in the cosmetically repaired set (you know, the ones who look like they're sucking on lemons), as well as literary brats and sub-literate bankers. On the way West Side you'll find the rural version of the scene. **Hogs & Heifers** serves up country kitsch to a weird amalgam of bikers and brokers who pound beers beneath a collection of trophy heads and trophy bras. A second location has opened for the convenience of Upper East Side shit-kickers.

**Where to pretend you're a mockstar genius...** There's nothing that reaffirms the inherent dignity of the human race quite like a few bottles of cheap sake and a karaoke machine. Put your self-consciousness aside and head over to **Second on Second,** an East Village sushi restaurant where your warbling can entertain an entire roomful of strangers (or just watch someone else flail their

### Punkaoke: Being Rotten for a Night

*New York's ultimate karaoke night comes every Monday at **Arlene's Grocery** on the Lower East Side. Instead of some tinny arrangement on a soulless laser disc, the music is generated by a real, live, rocking band. The songs are a schizophrenic mix of New York-certified Grade A punk and heavy metal. You can go up on stage and belt out a tune by the Stooges or Bad Brains, or you can lend your lungs to a Diamond Dave-esque version of "Hot for Teacher." Either way, there's no thrill like fronting an ass-kicking band in front of an appreciative Downtown crowd. Before you start practicing in the shower, check out the long list of performable songs at Arlene's website, www.arlenegrocery.com. Best of all: no cover.*

way through "Fernando" while stuffing your face with raw fish). A grungier karaoke scene can be found at the **Nolita Tavern,** where Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays belong to your hosts Sid and Buddy. It's "American Idol meets Jackass," running into the wee hours. For a Sapphic sing-along, head to lesbian favorite **Crazy Nanny's.** Every Sunday and Wednesday hostess Lisa gets the crowd's vocal cords vibrating. To find hipsters mixing it up with Chinatown locals, **Winnie's** is the place. It's divey, but what do you want for a buck a song? If you've got air-guitar chops that absolutely must be strutted, "Rockin' da Mike" will accommodate you. Free every Monday at **Three of Cups,** in the tiny downstairs lounge (you'll appreciate the small-room acoustics). Private booths are the solution for the shy. **Sing Sing Karaoke** will even let you record a demo of you and your friends' sweet harmonizing. Just $35 per hour for a room that accommodates five.



**Painting the town pink...** Some say that the Internet killed the gay nightlife scene. If your AOL profile is reeling them in, why bother leaving the house to get laid? It's true that a lot of the old classic nightspots have passed on in recent years, and even at street level things are changing. Chelsea has been New York's gay ghetto for years, and Eighth Avenue between 14th and 23rd streets still boasts some of the gayest blocks in America, but new high-rise apartment buildings in the neighborhood have baby strollers encroaching on the muscle-bound Chelsea Boys. Farther up Eighth Avenue, Hells Kitchen and the Theater District (the 40s and 50s) may be the next big gay 'hood.

Before Chelsea, the West Village was gay-central, and its charming streets are still home to an older gay crowd, as well as younger African-American and Hispanic guys. Lesbians are also comfortable in the West Village, though many call the East Village home now, too. **Crazy Nanny's** (just "Nanny's" to most regulars) and **Henrietta Hudson** are two of the most popular dyke bars in town, West Village haunts that provide all the basics (pool table, jukebox, cheap drinks) plus dancing and occasional comedy; men are made to feel at home (or at least ignored without huffy glares). **Meow Mix** is a grungier East Village alternative with live rock. Frat boys won't get through the door, although other men are tolerated, depending on the band. In general the East Village gay scene is pretty arty; if you're looking for waify guys, this is the place to go. **Wonder Bar** has an eclectic crowd that accommodates "strays" (straights who hang with gays). The **Starlight Bar & Lounge** has a laid-back back lounge that caters to a mixed crowd. **Starlette** on Sundays is one of the best lesbian nights in town. Inside **The Urge** there's no trace of the former occupant, a funeral home. Pass under the arcing neon sign and you'll find a fashionable crowd, which some locals grouse should stay in Chelsea. Chelsea mainstay Splash is newly remodeled and renamed **SBNY,** but the genial happytime atmosphere remains unchanged. Still a great place for out-of-towners to get their feet wet in the New York gay scene. Leather daddies only have one choice left in Manhattan, the new **Eagle** in way West Chelsea. Pool tables and a roof deck help to keep things friendly and relaxed. There's only an official dress code on select nights, but generally anything but leather and denim will be out of place. No cologne, either, please: The Eagle prefers masculine scents. In the slicker gay realm, **G** is hardly gee whiz, given the posing of gay trophy boys who've seen (and done) it all. **XL**



### The Naked City

*The **Gaiety Theater,** above the Howard Johnson's in Midtown, features live male dancers. Incredibly, the crowd includes tourists and celebs (Madonna's been spotted here). Due to city regulations, the models don't actually strip, they just remove all their clothes while performing "special and unique dance interpretations." See if you can interpret what occurs during the set break; when the dancers come back to the stage, they're all fully fluffed.*

excels at bringing in similar waxed, tanned, and pumped-up party boys. If you need a distraction, there's a luxe interior and elaborate light show, though no dance floor. Bears come out of hibernation on Sunday afternoons at the **Dugout.** A hairy, sweaty, friendly crowd sucks down cheap beer before overflowing onto the streets of the West Village. A block away on the Hudson you don't need a barroom or an Internet account to cruise. The piers in the West Village, especially on sunny weekend days, are a paradise for gay men with roving eyes.

**Taking a dive...** Some nights the idea of a room full of people younger, richer, and more attractive than you just won't do it. Thank God for the Manhattan dive bar. Not just for creepy old men anymore, Manhattan's best dives attract a cross-section of the city. The one thing you'll find in common among the patrons is an appreciation for the more authentic side of city nightlife. The trendy crowd won't go far enough east to reach the **Parkside Lounge.** A little too sophisticated to be a proper dive, this way-east East Village relic still has traces of the brothel it was not so long ago. There's a cheap happy hour, and entertainment in the form of pinball, a pool table, and a back room with bands and acts. Another good East Village hang is **Joe's Bar,** where you're all but guaranteed a seat even on a night when every other bar in the neighborhood is overflowing onto the street. There are pitchers of PBR, too. Farther west on the edge of SoHo is **Milano's,** perhaps the narrowest bar in the city. Friendly bartenders, but watch yourself because there's absolutely no room on the floor for passing out. On the Upper East Side, the **Subway Inn** is a slumming legend. Dark as a dungeon, with 60 years of history coating every surface. The Upper West Side's **P & G** is a regular winner of "New York's Best" awards. Unfortunately, the category is "Best Neon Sign." Inside are rickety tables, dingy lighting, and no shortage of booze. The back walls hold two lovely murals painted the year the bar opened, 1942, and never noticed since.



**Getting lucky...** If you're looking for young professionals on the prowl, The **Cub Room** is a good place to start. In this Wall Street–singles outpost, constantly shrouded in a testosterone and estrogen fog, straight white girls in pumps ogle and get ogled by straight white boys in pinstripes

and loosened ties. On SoHo's main drag, the place to get cruised is **I Tre Merli,** an enormous bar and restaurant that can open its entire front facade to the parade of hunks and lovelies that stalk West Broadway after dark. A few blocks away, **Lucky Strike** perseveres, with a barnyard bric-a-brac aesthetic for a trendy crowd. A lower-key SoHo spot is the **Merc Bar.** The beautiful people dragging and puffing outside the front doors is a scene in itself. The inside features more beautiful people, subdued lighting, and that space-age hunting lodge look that's all the rage right now. **America,** a vast space in the Flatiron district, owns not only the longest menu in Manhattan, but also a thriving pick-up scene. After business hours it's usually packed with predatory ad execs and wolfen market-jocks, so ladies should keep their legs crossed. The **Old Town Bar,** one of Manhattan's oldest and best-loved watering holes, shouldn't have a singles scene, but it does. After five, the place fills up remarkably fast with Flatiron-district office drones. It's every man and woman for him- or herself at **Live Bait,** a sometimes terrifying Flatiron joint decorated like a beachcomber bar, where fashion and photographers' models get endlessly hit on by jobless guys who tool around on Harleys. The tasty soul food at **Shark Bar** on the Upper West Side is eclipsed by the hopping buppie singles scene. Great for professional athlete sightings as well.

**Where to get your kinks...** The Giuliani regime cracked down hard on the more scandalous aspects of city culture. Peep shows and strip clubs got zoned out of any building within 500 feet of a school, residence, or house of worship. The result was a wave of sex-industry closures. Many of the survivors fled to industrial blocks in the outer boroughs, and the Manhattan sex scene is only a shadow of what it was. **Scores** overcame a near-death experience and still attracts high-rollers to its high-tech space near the 59th Street Bridge. It's about as upscale as a strip club gets: This is where Demi Moore researched her role in *Striptease,* and the likes of Howard Stern and Carson Daly have been sighted in the V.I.P. Champagne Room (ostensibly doing research themselves). Come to Scores if you want to ogle the latest advancements in the silicon industry. A downscale strip joint holdover is **The Baby Doll Lounge,** perhaps the seediest spot in yupped-out TriBeCa. The dancers don't make much effort to mask their boredom.

The demise of titty bars might be partly responsible for an unlikely comeback: burlesque. Stripping in a vaudevillian mode is taking over stages across the city. The **Blue Angel** "erotic cabaret" (so described in order to stay one step ahead of the vice squad) has been on the vanguard for almost a decade. Now performing under the nom de strip Le Scandal (tel 212/388-2988), you'll find beautiful women removing their clothes, swallowing swords, doing magic tricks, everything but lap dances (which they'd do if the city allowed it). It's the hippest burlesque show in town, every Saturday night at The **Cutting Room** in the Flatiron District. Also on Saturday nights, **Fez Under Time Café** presents the Va Va Voom Room (tel 212/330-9349). Your hostess Miss Astrid keeps the Weimaresque singing and dancing flowing with German efficiency. Nearby **Marion's** has good food, a long lounge history, and a classy retro interior that encourages profligate martini drinking. Live acts include the World Famous Pontani Sisters, a trio of lithe burlesque dancers who hop in, flash their gams, and move on to the next club. The **Slipper Room** on the Lower East Side is another burlesque-friendly place, with stage shows that lean toward the decadent side of drama. The interior is done up in the minimalist Victorian style that's taking over the city.

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East Side music hall for unestablished bands with dollar signs in their eyes.... *Tel 212/358-1633. www.arlene-grocery.com com. 95 Stanton St. F/V train trains to Second Ave., J/M/Z trains to Essex St. Cover.*

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**The Campbell Apartment** **(p. 214)** MIDTOWN EAST A sumptuous new bar, though during peak hours it's as crowded as Grand Central Station in there.... *Tel 212/953-0409. 15 Vanderbilt Ave. (in Grand Central Station). S/4/5/6/7 trains to Grand Central. No cover.*

**CBGB/OMFUG and CB's 313 Gallery** **(p. 218)** EAST VILLAGE The aesthetic: untrammeled authentic filth. The decor: layers of wheat-pasted posters and decades of graffiti. Suggested attire: something torn. Next door's 313 Gallery showcases quieter acts.... *Tel 212/982-4052. www.cbgb.com. 315–313 Bowery. F/V trains to Broadway/Lafayette or 6 train to Bleecker St. Cover.*

**Centro-Fly** **(p. 216)** CHELSEA A dependable lineup of DJs provide a lot of House and a lot of dancing for the varied crowd, but the ample lounges make it easy to relax for a few minutes, too.... *Tel 212/627-7770. www.centrofly.com. 45 W. 21st St. QN/W R or F/V trains to 23rd St. Cover.*

**Cheetah** **(p. 217)** CHELSEA Although P Diddy is no longer hosting his popular parties here, Cheetah is still one of New York's hottest clubs, especially on Tues nights.... *Tel 212/206-7770. 12 W. 21st St. N/R or F/V trains to 23rd St. Cover.*

**Crazy Nanny's** **(p. 220, 221)** WEST VILLAGE One of the Village's lesbian standbys, a friendly room where girls will be girls.... *Tel 212/645-0004. www.crazynannys.com. 21 Seventh Ave. S. 1/9 trains to Houston St. No cover.*

**The Cub Room** **(p. 222)** SOHO A scalding singles scene for both the sleazy and the button-down sets with comfy sofas and tables large enough to hold more than a gimlet.... *Tel 212/677-4100. 131 Sullivan St. C/E trains to Spring St. No cover.*

**The Cutting Room** (p. 224) CHELSEA Live music and other acts, including the classic burlesque show Le Scandal on Saturdays.... *Tel 212/691-1900. www.thecuttingroomnyc.com. 19 W. 24th St. F/V trains to 23rd St. Cover.*

**Dba** (p. 215) EAST VILLAGE Laidback neighborhood pub servicing gourmet whiskey and beer palates.... *Tel 212/475-5097. www.drinkgoodstuff.com. 41 First Ave. between 2nd and 3rd sts. F/V trains to Second Ave. No cover.*

**Decade** (p. 217) UPPER EAST SIDE '60s and '70s music at least a decade old and usually older plays for the baby boomer scene. No piercings or torn clothes here.... *Tel 212/835-5979. www.decadeny.com. 1117 First Ave. 4/5/6 trains to 59th St. or N/R/W trains to Lexington Ave. No cover.*

**The Dugout** (p. 222) WEST VILLAGE Summer beer blasts lead to winter beer guts at this bear-friendly West Village haunt.... *Tel 212/242-9113. 185 Christopher St. 1/9 trains to Christopher St. No cover.*

**The Eagle** (p. 221) CHELSEA The new Eagle has landed, providing New York's leather daddies with a home away from home.... *Tel 646/473-1866. www.eagle-ny.com. 554 W. 28th St. C/E trains to 23rd St. Cover on some nights.*

**Exit** (p. 217) MIDTOWN WEST Huge dance space accommodates the B & T masses.... *Tel 212/582-8282. www.exitnyc.com. 610 W. 56th St. A/B/C/D/1/9 trains to 59th St./Columbus Circle. Cover.*

**Fez Under Time Café** (p. 224) NOHO Cheap but chic sheik decor and some of the coolest acts around (both the performers and the clientele).... *Tel 212/533-7000. www.feznyc.com. 380 Lafayette St. 6 train to Astor Place. Cover.*

**Filter 14** (p. 216) CHELSEA Hip, friendly dance spot showcasing serious house music.... *Tel 212/366-5680. 432 W. 14th St. A/C/E trains to 14th St. or L train to Eighth Ave. Cover.*

**Float** (p. 216) MIDTOWN WEST Very hot, for the moment at least. It helps to adore techno-trance and look really, really fabulous.... *Tel 212/581-0055. 240 W. 52nd St. B/D/E trains to Seventh Ave. Cover.*

**Fun** (p. 216) CHINATOWN A fun crowd stays upbeat at this offbeat Downtown dance club.... *Tel 212/964-0303. www.fun.citysearch.com. 130 Madison St. F train to East Broadway. Cover.*

**G** **(p. 221)** CHELSEA A perfect example of the hell urban gay men create for themselves—and therefore immensely popular. The boys are so healthy, there's a juice bar.... *Tel 212/929-1085. www.glounge.com. 223 W. 19th St. 1/9 trains to 18th St. No cover.*

**Gaiety Theater** **(p. 221)** TIMES SQUARE Campy gay burlesque above the Midtown HoJo's.... *Tel 212/221-8868. 201 W. 46th St. 1/2/3/7/9 trains to 42nd/Times Square or A/C/E trains to 42nd/Port Authority. Cover.*

**The Ginger Man** **(p. 215)** MIDTOWN EAST The G-Man's extensive tap collection and corporate crowd are easy to catch.... *Tel 212/532-3740. www.gingermanpub.com. 11 E. 36th St. 6 train to 33rd St. No cover.*

**Grand Bar** **(p. 214)** SOHO Oversized chairs and sofas amid the potted palms of the mezzanine lobby of the SoHo Grand hotel. A Marienbad for the 21st century.... *Tel 212/965-3000. www.sohogrand.com. 310 W. Broadway. A/C/E trains to Canal St. No cover.*

**Guernica** **(p. 217)** EAST VILLAGE Restaurant on top, electric eclectic dance space beneath.... *Tel 212/674-0984. www.guernicanyc.com. 25 Ave. B. F/V trains to Second Ave. Cover some nights.*

**Heartland Brewery** **(p. 215)** CHELSEA A rotating selection of stoutly made micro-brews helps wash down the cheesesteak hoagies and cheesy come-ons.... *Tel 212/645-3400. www.heartlandbrewery.com. 35 Union Sq. W. 4/5/6, N/Q/R/W, or L train to Union Square. Tel 212/582-8244. 1285 Sixth Ave. L/B/D/F/S/V trains to 47th–50th St./Rockefeller Center. Tel 877/336-1262. 127 W. 43rd St. 1/2/3/7/9/N/Q/R/W trains to 42nd St./Times Square. Tel 646/572-2337. South Street Seaport, 93 South St. J/M/Z/2/3/4/5 trains to Fulton St. No cover.*

**Hell** **(p. 214)** MEAT-PACKING DISTRICT Janis Joplin or Astrud Gilberto on the juke, and fine martini selection, red velvet, and crystal chandeliers: a lounge classic in this mostly gay lounge classic.... *Tel 212/727–1666. 59 Gansevoort St. A/C/E trains to 14th St. or L train to Eighth Ave. No cover.*

**Henrietta Hudson** **(p. 221)** WEST VILLAGE Another of the Village's delightful dyke bars, where k.d. lang's singles have been retired from the jukebox.... *Tel 212/924-3347. www.henriettahudsons.com. 438 Hudson St. 1/9 trains to Christopher St. Cover.*

**Hogs & Heifers** **(p. 219)** MEAT-PACKING DISTRICT Good ol' boys who work on Y'all Street exchange their Gucci loafers for Tony

Lamas while a rude staff slings booze to the "hot country" soundtrack.... *Uptown, Tel 212/722-8635. www.hogsandheifers.com. 1843 First Ave. 6 train to 96th St. Downtown, Tel 212/929-0655. 859 Washington St. A/C/E trains to 14th St. or L train to Eighth Ave. No cover.*

**Hudson Bar & Books** **(p. 214)** WEST VILLAGE Elegant lounging on the West Side.... *Tel 212/229-2642. 636 Hudson St. A/C/E trains to 14th St. or L train to Eighth Ave. No cover.*

**Idlewild** **(p. 215)** EAST VILLAGE Retro aviation action stewarded by super-smooth DJs—feel free to move around the cabin.... *Tel 212/477-5005. www.idlewildnyc.com. 145 E. Houston St. F/V trains to Second Ave. No cover.*

**I Tre Merli** **(p. 223)** SOHO A cavernous, trendy SoHo emporium for cruising the very beautiful.... *Tel 212/254-8699. 463 W. Broadway. C/E trains to Spring St. or N/R trains to Prince St. No cover.*

**Joe's Bar** **(p. 222)** EAST VILLAGE Down-to-earth Downtown dive with a pool table and great jukebox.... *Tel 212/473-9093. 520 E. 6th St. F/V trains to Second Ave. No cover.*

**Lakeside Lounge** **(p. 218)** EAST VILLAGE The music room is tiny but inexplicably brings in big acts.... *Tel 212/529-8463. 162 Ave. B. L train to First Ave. No cover.*

**Lansky Lounge** **(p. 214)** LOWER EAST SIDE The Prohibition era lives on at this casually swanky spot.... *Tel 212/677-9489. www.lanskylounge.com. 104 Norfolk St. F train to Delancey or J/M/Z trains to Essex St. No cover.*

**Lemon** **(p. 219)** MIDTOWN EAST Hot Park Ave. South restaurant/bar hosts all sorts of bashes—lots of literary spottings.... *Tel 212/614-1200. 230 Park Ave. S. 6 or N/R trains to 23rd St. No cover.*

**Live Bait** **(p. 223)** MIDTOWN EAST If you leave this Flatiron dive lacking company, you just haven't been working hard enough on your mojo.... *Tel 212/353-2400. 14 E. 23rd St. N/R trains to 23rd St. No cover.*

**Living Room** **(p. 219)** LOWER EAST SIDE Now in larger digs but still an intimate space, good for acoustic acts and other low-key up-and-comers.... *Tel 212/533-7235. www.livingroomny.com. 154 Ludlow St. F/V trains to Second Ave. or J/M/Z trains to Essex St. No cover, one drink minimum.*

**Lucky Strike** (p. 223) SOHO You're liable to get pushed out the door and onto the street if you don't snag a table early at this SoHo bar for the young, rich, and not excessively bright and groovy-looking.... *Tel 212/941-0479. 59 Grand St. A/C/E, N/Q/R/W, J/M/Z, or 6 trains to Canal St. No cover.*

**Marion's** (p. 224) EAST VILLAGE Hep, man. One of the growing number of bars in town where you'll find 22-year-olds huddled over silky, arid martinis.... *Tel 212/475-7621. www.marionsnyc.com. 354 Bowery. F/S/V trains to Broadway/Lafayette or 6 train to Bleecker St. Usually no cover.*

**McSorley's Ale House** (p. 215) EAST VILLAGE If it was good enough for Abe Lincoln to booze in, it's good enough for you. An atavistic beer space as old and traditional as the crowd is not, at least on weekend nights when the NYU students come crowding in.... *Tel 212/473-9148. 15 E. 7th St. 6 train to Astor Place. No cover.*

**Meow Mix** (p. 221) EAST VILLAGE Cool lesbian chicks are in the mix, as is live music and other acts. Men may be tolerated, depending on what's on stage... *Tel 212/254-0688. www.meowmixchix.com. 269 E. Houston St. F/V trains to Second Ave. Cover.*

**Merc Bar** (p. 223) SOHO Nicely appointed SoHo scene that's seen a few trends come and go... *Tel 212/966-2727. www.mercbar.com. 151 Mercer St. N/R trains to Prince St. No cover.*

**Merchants N.Y.** (p. 214) CHELSEA There are now three locations of this definitive lounge-cum-yuppieteria... *Tel 212/366-7267. 112 Seventh Ave. 1/9 trains to 18th St. Tel 212/721-3689. 521 Columbus Ave. 1/9 or B/C trains to 86th St. Tel 212/832-1551. 1125 First Ave. 4/5/6 trains to 59th St. or N/R/W trains to Lexington Ave. Cover.*

**Mercury Lounge** (p. 217) EAST VILLAGE On its way to becoming an East Village Downtown legend, with an eclectic schedule of bands offering something for every alternative taste.... *Tel 212/260-4700. www.mercuryloungenyc.com. 217 E. Houston St. F/V trains to Second Ave. Cover.*

**Milano's** (p. 222) SOHO A convivial dive, but not for claustrophobics.... *Tel 212/226-8844. 51 E. Houston St. F/V trains to Broadway/Lafayette or 6 train to Bleecker St. No cover.*

**Nell's** (p. 216) CHELSEA No longer cutting edge, but still crazy after all these years, continuing to appeal to the shifting appetites of

the '90s style new tribes.... *Tel 212/675-1567. www.nells.com. 246 W. 14th St. A/C/E trains to 14th St. Cover.*

**Nolita Tavern** **(p. 220)** NOLITA Dark, draped, intimate space with live music and the so-called music that is karaoke.... *Tel 917/237-1901. 30 Spring St. 6 train to Spring St. No cover.*

**NoMoore** **(p. 218)** TRIBECA Cool, laid-back hangout with live music featuring everything from boleros to blues.... *Tel 212/925-2901. 234 W. Broadway. 1/9 trains to Franklin St. Cover.*

**The Old Town Bar** **(p. 223)** UNION SQUARE Nobody messes with The Old Town, and the slightly yupped-out but still polite crowd makes sure no one wants to.... *Tel 212/529-6732. 45 E. 18th St. 4/5/6, N/Q/R/W, or L trains to Union Square. No cover.*

**P & G** **(p. 222)** UPPER WEST SIDE Classic smoky dive, except no smoke in this post-ban era.... *Tel 212/874-8568. 279 Amsterdam Ave. 1/2/3/9 trains to 72nd St. No cover.*

**Parkside Lounge** **(p. 222)** LOWER EAST SIDE Nestled between projects and the East Village tenements, the crowd is always an interesting mix. Nightly acts in the back should you grow restless.... *Tel 212/673-6270. www.parksidelounge.com. 317 E. Houston St. F/V trains to Second Ave. No cover.*

**Pete's Candy Store** **(p. 218)** WILLIAMSBURG, BROOKLYN Feel like a kid in a great music venue. On a quiet Williamsburg block.... *Tel 718/302-3770. www.petescandystore.com. 709 Lorimer St., Williamsburg, Brooklyn. L train to Lorimer St. or G train to Metropolitan Ave. No cover.*

**Pravda** **(p. 219)** NOHO Everyone dresses in monochrome in this dazzlingly trendy (and full of itself) basement spot, bingeing on beluga and downing Stoli martinis as if they were water.... *Tel 212/334-5015. 281 Lafayette St. F/S/V trains to Broadway/ Lafayette or 6 train to Bleecker St. No cover.*

**Rodeo Bar** **(p. 218)** MIDTOWN EAST Rockabilly honky-tonk hangout for urban cowboys.... *Tel 212/683-6500. 375 Third Ave. 6 train to 28th St. No cover.*

**The Roxy** **(p. 216)** CHELSEA Strap on those skates and take a turn around the immense dance floor at this longtime favorite among locals and tourists alike.... *Tel 212/645-5156. 515 W. 18th St. A/C/E trains to 14th St. or L train to Eighth Ave. A/C/E trains to 14th St. Cover.*

**Sapphire Lounge** (p. 217) LOWER EAST SIDE A nightly hotspot dance club on an East Village scale (tiny) for the fashionably bohemian Lower East Side set.... *Tel 212/777-5153. 249 Eldridge St. F/V trains to Second Ave. Cover (free before 10:30pm).*

**SBNY** (p. 221) CHELSEA Splash Bar with a new name and decor, though the friendly feel hasn't changed. If Chelsea pretty boys and professional types are objects of your desire, come on over.... *Tel 212/691-0073. www.splashbar.com. 50 W. 17th St. F/V or L trains to 14th St. Cover on some nights.*

**Scores** (p. 223) MIDTOWN EAST This swank strip club is the spot for lap dances of luxury.... *Tel 212/421-3763. www.scoresny.com. 333 E. 60th St. 4/5/6 trains to 59th St., or N/R/W trains to Lexington Ave. Cover.*

**Second on Second** (p. 219) EAST VILLAGE Low-lit sushi restaurant turns diners into performers on karaoke nights.... *Tel 212/473-2922. 27 Second Ave. F/V trains to Second Ave. No cover.*

**Shark Bar** (p. 223) UPPER WEST SIDE Tall, dark, and handsome soul food/music joint with matching clientele.... *Tel 212/874-8500. 307 Amsterdam Ave. 1/2/3/9 trains to 72nd St. No cover.*

**Sing Sing Karaoke** (p. 220) EAST VILLAGE Imprison yourself in a cushy private booth with four friends and warble into the wee hours.... *Tel 212/674-0700. 81 Ave. A. F/V trains to Second Ave. Cover.*

**Slipper Room** (p. 224) LOWER EAST SIDE A L.E.S. newcomer with a stage to host all manner of risqué business.... *Tel 212/253-7246. 167 Orchard St. F/V trains to Second Ave. Cover.*

**SOB's (Sounds of Brazil)** (p. 218) WEST VILLAGE Got a taste for salsa? SOB's serves up a rich mixture. Not just Brazilian sounds: If it's rhythmically ambitious, it has a home here.... *Tel 212/243-4940. www.sobs.com. 204 Varick St. 1/9 trains to Houston St. Cover.*

**Sound Factory** (p. 216) MIDTOWN WEST The definitive home to customized house mix, with some of the city's most sought-after DJs and a hyper-youthful crowd.... *Tel 212/489-0001. www.soundfactorynyc.com. 618 W. 46th St. C/E trains to 50th St. Cover.*

**Southpaw** (p. 218) PARK SLOPE, BROOKLYN A bit of a schlep from Manhattan, but superior booking more than makes up for it.... *Tel 718/230-0236. 125 Fifth Ave. M/N/R/W trains to Pacific St. Q/2/3/4/5 trains to Atlantic Ave. Cover.*

**Spring Lounge** **(p. 215)** NOLITA A well-worn interior with big windows for spying on a fascinating NoLita corner.... *Tel 212/965-1774. 48 Spring St. 6 train to Spring St. No cover.*

**Starlight Bar & Lounge** **(p. 221)** EAST VILLAGE Downtown hang for gays, straights, and all permutations in between.... *Tel 212/475-2172. 167 Ave. A. L train to First Ave. No cover.*

**Subway Inn** **(p. 222)** UPPER EAST SIDE Unreconstructed dive, as utilitarian as its name.... *Tel 212/473-5252. 143 E. 60th St. 4/5/6 trains to 59th St. No cover.*

**Temple Bar** **(p. 214)** NOHO Chilling with a martini here rapidly approaches maximum sophistication.... *Tel 212/925-4242. 332 Lafayette St. F/V trains to Broadway/Lafayette or 6 train to Bleecker St. No cover.*

**Tenth Street Lounge** **(p. 219)** EAST VILLAGE So cool you might not be able to stand yourself after three or four $7 cognacs. Would be comfortable if not for all the attitude.... *Tel 212/473-5252. 212 E. 10th St. 4/5/6, Q/W, or L trains to Union Square.* No cover.

**Three of Cups** **(p. 220)** EAST VILLAGE Restaurant upstairs and additional fun downstairs in the tiny grungy lair of a lounge.... *Tel 212/388-0059. 83 First Ave. F/V trains to Second Ave. No cover.*

**Urge** **(p. 221)** EAST VILLAGE Chelsea-friendly gay spot in the arty East Village.... *Tel 212/533-5757. www.urgenyc.com. 33 Second Ave. F/V trains to Second Ave. No cover.*

**Village Underground** **(p. 219)** WEST VILLAGE Walk down the stairs for topflight underground music and an array of blues and R&B greats.... *Tel 212/777-7745. 130 W. 3rd St. A/C/E or F/V trains to W. 4th St. Cover.*

**Winnie's** **(p. 220)** CHINATOWN Perhaps the diviest bar in Chinatown, but that doesn't scare off the karaoke-crooning hipsters.... *Tel 212/732-2384. 104 Bayard St. A/C/E, N/Q/R/W, J/M/Z, or 6 trains to Canal St. No cover.*

**Wonder Bar** **(p. 221)** EAST VILLAGE A festival of silliness for gay men on the make, lipstick lesbians, and the straight students who are drawn to them. Not for older cruisers.... *Tel 212/777-9105. 505 E. 6th St. 6 train to Astor Place or F/V trains to Second Ave. No cover.*

**XL** **(p. 221)** CHELSEA Elaborate interior attracts a toned crowd, plus it's got the best fish tank urinal in town.... *Tel 212/995-1400. 357 W. 16th St. A/C/E trains to 14th St. or L train to Eighth Ave. Cover.*

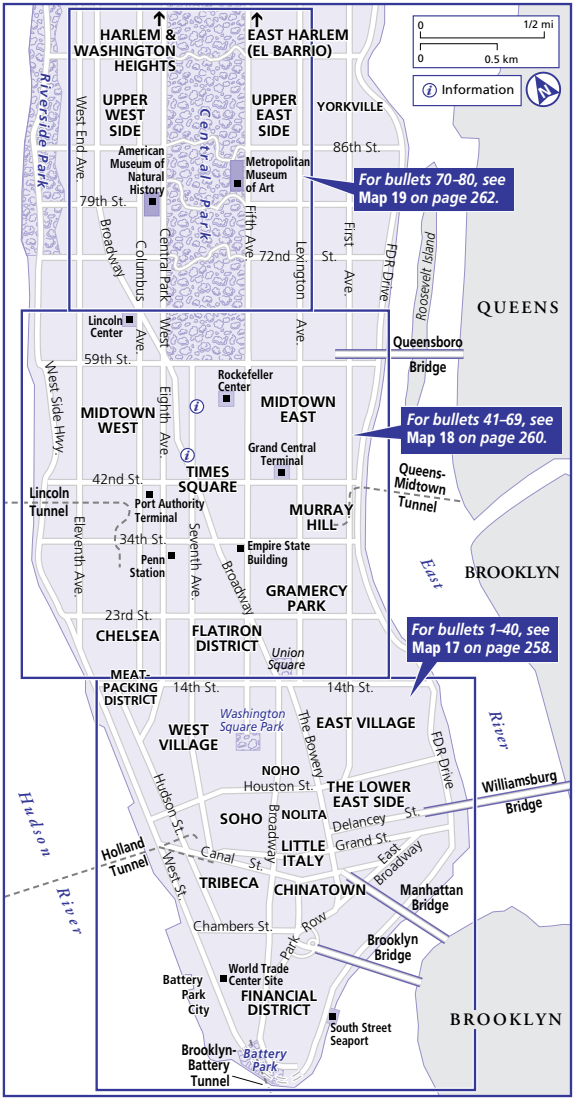
**Zinc Bar** **(p. 218)** NOHO Sexy, cozy jazz bar where the music, mood, and making out are all slinky.... *Tel 212/477-8337. 90 W. Houston St. A/C/E or F/V trains to W. 4th St./Washington Square. Cover.*

ENTERTA

# INMENT

# 7

# Map 16: Manhattan Entertainment—Orientation



# Basic Stuff

No, you won't see it all. Who has time? So resign yourself. You just walked in on the biggest, richest cultural buffet in the world, and no matter how high you pile your plate, you are going to miss out on some choice dishes. On any given day, a dozen must-see acts will pass through town, twice as many during the height of the spring and fall seasons, when all the opera companies and orchestras are in residence and every dance troupe in town is premiering new work. And these aren't just performances; they are world-class performances, in everything from acid jazz to chamber music to grand opera to cabaret to basketball.

In Manhattan, any old church can (and many do) host comic improv troupes, performance art pieces so cutting-edge they draw blood, and esoteric concerts such as Zimbabwean Mbira music (normally used to call spirits or change weather). Museums such as the Guggenheim and the Met serve as venues for concerts and recitals, often becoming cultured pick-up scenes. Best of all, there are umpteen freebie events that run the gamut from dungeon drag acts to chamber music recitals, to help New Yorkers remember how civilized—and forget how uncivil—city life can be. As soon as the weather turns warm, Central Park becomes the setting for major free performances by such luminaries as the New York Philharmonic, Metropolitan Opera (at least one of the Three Tenors may show up), Paul Simon, and (in)famously, Diana Ross. Hang out at Lincoln Center's plazas, where mimes, flutists, jugglers, stand-up comics, fire-eaters, and tap dancers congregate—a fun, free taste of all New York has to offer. Hell, even street musicians in the subways may be Juilliard-trained professionals.

Simple advice: Spend some time planning your entertainment itinerary before the plane lands. There are a lot of people in New York, and if an event is hot, that just means a lot of other people will have heard about it, too. But for every failed plan in Gotham, an unexplored opportunity lurks in the wings. It's simply a matter of digging a little deeper.



### Sources

The ***New York Times*** Sunday "Arts and Leisure" section contains a thorough list of the upcoming week's entertainment options, delivered in an even tone that makes few discernible attempts to help readers figure out what's worth their trouble. A helpful

source, but not much fun. The unflaggingly comprehensive ***Time Out*** lists anything and everything you could want, spiced with a soupçon of catiness and, alas, more than a dash of hype.

***The New Yorker***'s "Goings On About Town" section provides a swift, disputatious rundown of the upcoming week's events, delivered in the magazine's arch, vaguely bemused style. The film reviews are particularly useful, although not always extensive or exhaustive. The best film reviews come from an unexpected source, the satirical weekly ***The Onion***, free from boxes on street corners all over town.

The ***Village Voice***, available for free bright and early every Wednesday morning, performs for the Downtown scene the service that ***The New Yorker*** supplies to the Uptown crowd. Though its once impeccable alternative credentials are increasingly tarnished these days, the paper's "Choices" listing remains top-drawer, if at times awfully predictable.

The ***New York Press*** combines a poverty-stricken slacker sensibility with a larder of gallivanting sarcasm. The paper features a very reliable cluster of neighborhood-by-neighborhood restaurant reviews. Best of all, the paper is free, dispensed from green street-corner boxes throughout Downtown.

***New York*** magazine features a back-of-the-book rundown of weekly events that gives ***Time Out*** and ***The New Yorker*** competition.

The New York ***Observer*** runs a weekly calendar of stuff worth seeing or, better yet, crashing ("The Eight-Day Week"), but be careful: The rag is wry and snooty, which makes for great reading but doesn't always transmit the most straightforward summary of what's hot and what's not. The ***Observer*** notices every smarmy detail of city life in haute muckraking fashion, providing salty comments peppered with spicy gossip. ***HX*** and ***Next*** are geared toward the gay circuit scene, but they're useful sources for any out-of-towner looking for cabaret listings, club lowdowns and highlights, and anything with a whiff of decadence.



### Getting Tickets

Broadway has taken a hard hit in the post-9/11 economy, with sales down across the board. As a result, deep discounts that would have been unimaginable in the boom years are now fairly easy to come by. Go to www.nycvisit.com and click on the "Paint the Town Red White & Blue" link for information on specific theaters.

Calling a theater's box office is a logical first step, though all too often they steer you straight into the jaws of **Ticketmaster** (tel 212/307-7171), **Telecharge** (tel 212/239-6200), or **Centercharge** (tel 212/721-6500), which smack you with surcharges and limited seating choices. Off- and Off-Off-Broadway theaters and performance venues often have tickets right up till show time, and many take reservations so you can avoid surcharge frustrations. **The Broadway Line** offers both up-to-date information on shows and links to ticket sources (tel 888/BROADWAY).

Ticket agencies will make you pay until it hurts, though it's one way of reeling in an impossible ticket. A hotel concierge is a good source, but once they've tracked down the tickets and you've slipped them a Jackson, it may not be any cheaper than going straight to the agency. One good approach is to request the tickets when you make your hotel reservation. **Ticket scalpers** are always an option, too. Look for forlorn types hanging around in front of the theater or concert hall with their tickets raised. Expect to cough up some serious cash, though even then you're risking getting a counterfeit. It doesn't hurt to visit the box office first, particularly at Lincoln Center, to ask if there are any last-minute **returns.** Don't bet on scoring anything if Yo-Yo Ma is playing Carnegie Hall, but for a spontaneous night out, this is often a way to luck into an interesting evening.

### Cheap TKTS, Good Seats

*A long-standing bargain is the **TKTS** same-day half-price ticket concession. The lines aren't what they were before 9/11, but they're still pretty long. (Though there are worse ways of spending an hour than on an island at 47th and Broadway, in the middle of Times Square's neon-addled crowds. You just might get a free show, too, as Broadway troupes sometimes stop by to boost flagging ticket sales.) TKTS is open from 3 to 8pm for evening performances, 10am to 2pm for Wednesday and Saturday matinees, and from 11am until showtime on Sunday for all performances. There's a second TKTS location downtown at John and Front streets in the South Street Seaport area. The lines are much shorter and matinee tickets are sold for the following day only, if you're the type that plans ahead (11am–6pm Mon through Sat, 11am–3:30pm Sun). Show availability is posted on a digital bulletin board that's updated as ticket supplies dwindle. Discounts are generally 50%, with a few shows at a 25% reduction. Remember, TKTS accepts only cash or traveler's checks, no credit cards or personal checks.*

# The Lowdown

**Live from New York...** Smaller bands play the clubs (see the "Nightlife" chapter), while the more established acts barnstorm through New York's surfeit of midsize halls. These venues tend to be once-luxurious theaters and ballrooms, turned over in their autumn years to the unwashed rock masses. Sound is good at most places, and ticket prices are usually under control (hovering in the $15–$20 range). **Irving Plaza** books great acts, an uncanny number of whom are about to make the jump to big-star status. **Town Hall** is a classy space that tends to attract equally classy acts, everything from Garrison Keillor to Bob Mould to Blondie. The **Beacon Theater's** Art Deco digs can accommodate 2,700, the right size for weeklong Allman Brothers stands. When the band plays loud enough, you can almost forget how bad the acoustics are. The **Bottom Line** near N.Y.U. books performers with slightly older followings and usually has two shows a night, should you want to make an early evening of it. For big league acts, **Madison Square Garden** is the largest, host to U2 and Springsteen (and also host to three major-league sports franchises, which the space is better suited for). The **Theater at Madison Square Garden** is a smaller venue with better sight and sound.



**Jazz classics...** All roads lead to the **Village Vanguard,** which can't be trumped by any other of the city's many jazz meccas. With almost 70 years of experience, the Vanguard knows its booking, bringing in both up-and-comers and established local stars. The sound is excellent and listeners really listen, with an intensity that often verges on the pathological. Monday nights feature a house band, the Vanguard Jazz Orchestra.

Another vintage joint is the **Lenox Lounge,** recently returned to its '30s Art Deco glam. Even without the great sounds, the Zebra Room's striped walls and leather banquettes would make the trip up to Harlem worthwhile. **Fez Under Time Café** books non-jazz acts, but on Thursday nights hosts the Mingus Big Band, a legendary group run by Mingus' widow, Sue. It's still a hot ticket, so make your reservations in advance. The **Blue Note** has a history that

most other clubs would give up a year's worth of door receipts for, and it shows both in the gargantuan ticket prices and the gift shop. The place is a shrine, and everyone who still is anyone, from Dave Brubeck to the Modern Jazz Quartet, has the Blue Note slotted as their venue of choice in Gotham. One problem is that the place is usually jammed, and the quarters are very tight.

**Birdland,** now in its third incarnation, is a lot roomier, with great sightlines. It hosts big names on weekends and has a real sleeper of a big band on late Friday afternoons. Like Birdland, **Iridium** recently left the Upper West for Midtown digs. Les Paul remains a constant, however, still playing with his trio every Monday night. Another Monday-night superstar is Woody Allen, who moonlights as a clarinetist with the Eddy Davis New Orleans Jazz Band at the **Café Carlyle** in the Carlyle Hotel. It's worth noting it'll set you back $75 just to get in the door to see the Woodman. Hefty covers, especially on weekends, are an issue with most of Manhattan's classic jazz clubs, so make sure your wallet's stacked.

**All that other jazz...** Your means may be limited, but the city's jazz options are not. **Smoke,** on the Upper West Side, is an old-fashioned spot with a friendly vibe and no cover unless it's Friday or Saturday. Bebop (both retro and nouveau) cedes to funk on Wednesdays and Latin jazz on Sundays. **K'av'h'az,** a coffee house slash art gallery in Chelsea, has jazz at accessible prices almost every night. On Fridays, there's jazz echoing around the rotunda of the **Guggenheim Museum.** Even better, from 6 to 8pm on Fridays the museum is pay what you want. If you're seeking the avant-garde, Downtown is naturally the destination. The elder statesman of the scene is the **Knitting Factory,** housed in a former school in TriBeCa. With four separate performance spaces, you're bound to find something of interest even if the act in the main auditorium doesn't grab you. **Tonic** provides a home for jazz mavericks in a converted kosher winery on the Lower East Side. The **Kitchen** gets way out on the cutting edge, which means melodies may be few and far between. The east end of the East Village is flirting with a jazz renaissance. **Louis** is a wine bar honoring Satchmo (a resident of Queens) with

piped-in jazz, unless someone's live on the ivories. The **C-Note** mixes bands and jam sessions on a newly hopping strip of Avenue C. Covers are low or non-existent. Every fall nearby Tompkins Square Park hosts the Charlie Parker Jazz Festival. It's a fitting location: When Bird lived at 151 Avenue B, the park was his front yard.

**Hail that cabaret...** Where there are sophisticated gay men, cabaret can't be far away. Much of the music clusters around the West Village's Sheridan Square, the hub of established gay life. Anchoring the scene is **The Duplex,** a glittery, garish, gloriously tasteless club with a piano bar downstairs and various camp, comedy, and performance acts upstairs in the Game Room. Out of favor in recent years, but lately staging a comeback thanks to several critically acclaimed young talents. A few blocks away, the **Cornelia Street Cafe** welcomes singer-songwriters, poets, and whatever other entertainment—usually worthwhile—that catches the fancy of the management. Cabaret singers still seeking that first big break play **Don't Tell Mama,** a Theater District venue with booked shows. In the front room you can sit around a piano and listen to the crooning up-close. **Joe's Pub** at the Joseph Papp Public Theater is a gorgeous new addition to the cabaret scene. Serving up supper and top-of-the-line acts, the sound is as impressive as the romantic, soft-lit decor. The **Café Carlyle** in the Carlyle Hotel books legends from Eartha Kitt and Betty Buckley, but the performer who keeps well-heeled connoisseurs of American pop standards coming back is Bobby Short, an Uptown institution at the hotel's grand piano. Short plays and sings his songbook like it was meant to be done, with unparalleled urbanity and sophistication (he looks devilishly comfortable in a tux); it's not a cheap date, but it's certainly a memorable one.



**If Sinatra's your style...** The **Carnegie Club's** swanky high-ceilinged digs host "Weekends with Sinatra," starring Cary Hoffman and the Stan Rubin Orchestra. The show is the next best thing to building a time machine and traveling back to Frank's glory years. **Radio City Music Hall** has put together a virtual Frank experience. If it comes around again, expect John Pizzarelli's 40-piece big band playing along with Sinatra projections and the real-life Rockettes.

### Music for a Song

***SummerStage*** *in Central Park presents free bands all summer long. The Rumsey Playfield, not far from the Bethesda fountain and 72nd Street, has played host to acts as varied as James Brown, Sonic Youth, and Hugh Masekela. No tickets are necessary, though a few shows are set aside as benefits that charge admission to keep the rest of the schedule complimentary. Prospect Park's answer to SummerStage is* ***Celebrate Brooklyn!,*** *where you can see the likes of Rufus Wainwright, the Spanish Harlem Orchestra, and the Brooklyn Philharmonic, all for free (though $3 donations are cheerfully accepted). Concerts are held at the Prospect Park Bandshell, Prospect Park West and 9th Street (close to the F, 2, or 3 train).*

*On the Hudson,* ***MoonDance*** *in July and August offers dancing lessons on Pier 25 and live music a half hour later, when you've become an expert. A little ways north at Pier 54, bands play against the backdrop of sunset over the Jersey skyline as part of the* ***RiverRocks*** *summer program.* ***Castle Clinton*** *in Battery Park brings fringe favorites like Cat Power, The Magnetic Fields, and Del McCoury for free summer concerts. Some of the city's best free music will never appear on a cultural calendar. On street corners and especially beneath them, where the subway system's acoustics make for an ideal practice spot, you can hear music that sometimes exceeds what's playing on the gel-lit stages. The most congested subway stations (Times Square, Penn Station, Union Square, and Columbus Circle) offer the highest returns on hat-passing, so that's where you'll find the best musicians. If a band hooks you into a groove, you may happily let your train go by.*

The legendary **Algonquin** hotel, once home to the scabrous wit of Dorothy Parker and the Round Table's clutch of literary regulars still offers clubby charm. The Oak Room at the Algonquin has been painstakingly restored to its former glory, hosting elegant acts that could have kept up with Ol' Blue Eyes. For touch-dancing (black tie optional), the elegant **Supper Club** is just the ticket. Pop vocalists and neo-swing bands provide the requisite Frank-era vibe.

**Ballet high...** In the past decade, New York has conceded some of its dominance of the dance world to Seattle and San Francisco, but Gotham still has more venues where the absolute best and brightest perform regularly. The perfect place to start is at **Lincoln Center,** where the **New York City Ballet** holds two seasons a year at the New York State Theater. This is classical dance with a strong modernist edge, the product of ballet master George Balanchine's

longtime creative influence and Lincoln Kirstein's intellectual enthusiasm for the art form. December belongs to ***The Nutcracker***, a New York holiday institution.

**American Ballet Theater (ABT)** also holds court at Lincoln Center, but in the Metropolitan Opera House, for eight performances each spring. What City Ballet is to modernist severity and innovation, ABT is to reliable, melodramatic gush like ***Giselle*** and ***Swan Lake***: a romantic museum for **la danse classique.** Mikhail Barishnikov presided over the company for a while, but since his departure ABT has been struggling to build an identity, recently reanimated by several promising young dancers.

**City Center,** a gloomy Spanish baroque pile (fast by Carnegie Hall) that was City Ballet's home long ago, now most often plays host to New York's great post-Balanchine experimental companies, such as Merce Cunningham, Paul Taylor, and Alvin Ailey.

In Chelsea, the **Joyce Theater**'s unpretentious architecture and unobstructed views make it one of the best places in town to catch a performance. A steady stream of local, regional, and international talent crosses the Joyce's stage, everyone from Garth Fagen and Bill T. Jones to Eliot Feld and a gaggle of Native American and European companies. Right around the corner is **Dance Theater Workshop (DTW),** the liveliest of the city's alternative dance spaces, where the critics go to check the pulse of postmodern choreography and performance. Farther downtown in SoHo, the **Ohio Theater** opens its doors to a variety of innovative young companies. The Joyce's SoHo location offers experimental works and rising stars in an intimate setting. **P.S. 122,** a central venue for the alternative East Village theater and arts scene, often features performances that involve dance, though that could as easily mean someone dressed in plastic and writhing on the floor as something more upstanding. The **Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM)** plays host each year to the vaunted Next Wave Festival, a smorgasbord of avant-garde performances that never fails to include the work of some inventive new choreographer; Mark Morris first began to capture critical attention here.



**What's opera, doc?...** Most New Yorkers are too intimidated by the hopelessly garish Metropolitan Opera House

to be properly Italian in their passions toward the city's largest opera company, the **Metropolitan Opera.** The Big House, as some have less-than-affectionately dubbed it, instead seems like a high-art cathedral for corporate sponsors and wealthy expatriate Eurotrash, a sorry state of affairs borne out by bloated ticket prices and overblown staging. Still, this is grand opera on a vast scale, the only house in America with the wherewithal to stage Wagner's complete Ring Cycle on consecutive nights and provide a home for one of the world's finest opera orchestras. The ultra-cheap seats are miles from the action, but if you have $30 and a powerful set of binoculars, you can hang out with the opera queens and longtime devotees, some of whom whip themselves into a scary lather of "bravos" for curtain calls. All operas are sung in the original language, but the Met projects supertitles on the backs of each row of seats. The audience even laughs at the jokes in Verdi (but, tellingly, a beat or two *before* the joke is sung).

A pleasant alternative is provided by the perennially strapped **New York City Opera,** where supertitles accompany a more dynamic series of seasonal offerings at Lincoln Center's New York State Theater. Culture-watchers have been hailing City Opera as the more interesting option for years, but the institution-in-waiting has yet to catch on with the public. Lousy acoustics and electronic sound enhancement (microphones and 148 hidden speakers that act as operatic steroids for shortcomings in the natural sound) may be part of the reason. The quality of the performances is high, however, and radically eclectic, recently showcasing both Baroque operas by Handel, and modern works about Lizzie Borden and Sweeney Todd.

The truly intrepid will board the subway or cross the Brooklyn Bridge and visit the **Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM),** whose lushly renovated opera house combines starkly experimental offerings and an occasional tidbit from the canon. The building itself is a jewel, a remnant from the days when Brooklyn competed with Manhattan in an interborough contest to rule the city's cultural roost.

Miscellaneous operatic treats are available on a catch-as-catch-can basis at **Carnegie Hall,** where opera's living legends sometimes sing solo gigs, and at several smaller venues around town, including the Bowery's tiny **Amato Opera Company.** If operetta is more your speed than

opera, the **New York Gilbert and Sullivan Players** perform from fall to spring, splitting time between City Center and **Symphony Space.** Areas of expertise include geishas and pirates.

### Talk City

*You can sit in on a taping of one of the many talk shows shot in New York, including* **The Daily Show,** *the* **Late Show with David Letterman,** *and* **Late Night with Conan O'Brien**.... *you get the idea. Call for addresses, and write way in advance. Many shows offer standby tickets the day of the taping, although this often entails a several-hour commitment. The NYCVB has more info at tel 212/484-1222.* Late Night with Conan O'Brien *(tapings Tues–Fri 5:30pm.... Tel 212/664-3056);* Late Show with David Letterman *(tapings Mon–Wed 5:30pm, Thur 5:30 and 8pm.... Tel 212/247-6497);* The Daily Show with Jon Stewart *(tapings Mon–Thur 5:45 pm.... Tel 212/586-2477);* Live with Regis and Kelly *(tapings Mon–Fri 9am.... Tel 212/456-3054). To get on the* Today Show, *just show up outside the big studio window at Rockefeller Center, on the southwest corner of 49th Street and Rockefeller Plaza. Tapings Monday through Friday from 7 to 10am.*

**The joke's on them...** New York is so often exasperating and so often surreal that it's a constant source of fresh material for comedians. Right now the city seems stacked with young comic talent, which means amateur nights are more common than headliner-thick extravaganzas. **Galapagos,** across the river in Brooklyn, has frequent comedy nights showcasing alternative comic talent like Andrea Rosen and Tom Shillue, with cover charges usually only $5. Another $5 spot is the **Den of Cin,** beneath Two Boots Pizzeria in the East Village, with comedy on Thursday nights. Among the high-profile clubs, comedy bargains are harder to come by. Two drink minimums are pretty much universal, and covers start around $10, higher on the weekends. **Caroline's on Broadway** can get up to $30 a pop, but then again Caroline Hirsch has the most established club in the city. Expect familiar names like Janeane Garofalo and Colin Quinn, unless it's a New Talent Night (usually Mondays), in which case expect someone you'll be hearing from again soon. Downtown and downstairs is the **Comedy Cellar,** an intimate West Village club with solid lineups. Comedy savants come here to hear the latest hot comedians. **Gotham Comedy Club** is an accessible spot in Chelsea, where a spendy renovation attracts a with-it crowd. Jerry Seinfeld has been working the room

lately, when he's not keeping close to home at **Stand-Up NY,** on the Upper West Side he immortalized on TV (even if they filmed the episodes in L.A.).

**The theatah...** Theater courses through the veins of New York. No other city in the world (sorry London) can match Manhattan for quantity and quality of nightly offerings. Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays we get daily offerings, too, with afternoon matinees. The scene separates somewhat uncertainly into three groups, with ticket prices falling accordingly. Broadway means large-scale musical productions, à la ***Rent***, Andrew Lloyd Webber's ***Phantom of the Opera***, and ***The Producers***. Most Broadway theaters are clustered around Times Square. Off-Broadway is quirkier and more artistically aloof, though not immune to booking goofy acts like magicians Penn & Teller, acrobat/jugglers like the Flying Karamazov Brothers, and mime Bill Irwin. The line between the two has become increasingly blurred, with numerous transfers from smaller houses to Broadway theaters. The term "Off-Broadway" refers to content rather than geography, as shows can be playing a block off the main theater district drag, or miles away in an obscure corner of the Lower East Side. Off-Off Broadway is anything-goes territory, featuring alternative performances and anything with a cutting edge, generally in venues below 14th Street.

Mainstream Broadway has taken some shots recently for subsisting on the creativity of the past. Many recent hits have either been revivals or direct lifts from movies, television, and pop music. *Cats* run may finally be over, but many of the other shows lighting up the marquees are aging warriors (think *Chicago*, *Cabaret*, *Gypsy*, and *42nd Street*). *Phantom of the Opera* has put on 6,500 performances and counting. One recent change is Hollywood's arrival on Broadway. Many stars of the silver screen have been upping their cred (or maybe just killing time while waiting for the studio to call back) by coming to the live stage. Getting to see a major celebrity in the flesh goes at least part of the way to justifying the rising tickets prices, which can now exceed a cool $100 for orchestra seats. The musical still holds sway over the Great White Way. *Hairspray*, a musical campfest based on the John Waters movie, has taken up

residence at the **Neil Simon Theatre.** Muppets are in charge at the John Golden, with Avenue Q's Sesame Street-meets-Rent numbers giving adults an excuse to watch a puppet show. *The Producers* is still a hot ticket, and its spoofs of show business make it a great introduction to life on Broadway. A charmer on what used to be a sleazy stretch of 42nd Street is the beautifully restored **New Victory Theater,** which specializes in performances that appeal to children as well as their parents. At Lincoln Center, tucked behind the Metropolitan Opera House, discriminating theater-goers will find the **Vivian Beaumont & Mitzi E. New-house Theatres,** where recent years have seen formidable plays on the order of ***Marie Christine*** and ***Six Degrees of Separation***. The Lincoln Center Theater Company also presents top revivals.

Off-Broadway plays tend to have shorter runs, although the still-popular *De La Guarda* won't be leaving town any time soon. A team of Argentine acrobats puts on a carnival in a former bank on Union Square, substituting for dramatic language with dramatic aerial tricks. Leave the suede in the hotel room and heed the ticket's warning: "You will get wet." Downtown, Joe Papp's legendary **Joseph**

### Your Own Free Will

***Shakespeare in the Park,*** *held at Central Park's Delacorte Theater, is by far the city's most famous alfresco arts event. Organized by the late Joseph Papp's Public Theater, the schedule consists of two summertime productions, usually two of the Bard's plays. Productions often feature big names and range from traditional interpretations (Andre Braugher as an armor-clad Henry V) to avant-garde presentations (Morgan Freeman, Tracey Ullman, and David Alan Grier in* Taming of the Shrew *as a Wild West showdown). Patrick Stewart's role as Prospero in* The Tempest *a few years back was so popular that the show was propelled onto Broadway for an award-winning run. The theater itself, next to Belvedere Castle near 79th Street and West Drive, is a dream—on a beautiful starry night, there's no better stage in town. Best of all: Tickets are FREE—given out on a first-come, first-served basis (two per person), at 1pm on the day of the performance at the theater. The Delacorte might have 1,881 seats, but each is a hot commodity, so people generally line up about 2 to 3 hours in advance (even earlier if a big box-office name is involved). You can also pick up same-day tickets between 1 and 3pm at the Public Theater, at 425 Lafayette St., where the Shakespeare Festival continues throughout the year. For more information, call the Public Theater at tel* ***212/539-8750*** *or the Delacorte at tel* ***212/861-7277,*** *or go online at* ***www.publictheater.org***.

**Papp Public Theater** presents some of the finest contemporary drama available to New Yorkers, including the likes of Sam Shepard and David Henry Hwang. It also presents the New York Shakespeare Festival at Central Park's **Delacorte Theater** (see "Your Own Free Will" above) and develops the occasional Broadway mega-hit like ***Bring in Da Noise, Bring in Da Funk.*** The **Cherry Lane Theatre,** tucked away in the West Village, can be trusted for a sophisticated night out. The long-running *Kiki & Herb: Coup de Théatre* is a good example, a hilarious drag lounge act that somehow manages to break through the camp to become completely moving. East 4th Street between First and Second is a Lincoln Center in miniature, with several tiny theaters hidden in the tenements. **La Mama** is a venerable avatar of the avant-garde. Right across the street, the **New York Theatre Workshop** will dabble in hip-hop dramatic stylings.

**The Theater for the New City** on First Avenue is known for giving breaks to obscure playwrights. The **Jean Cocteau Repertory Theater** preserves the best of the past, preventing worthy plays from being forgotten. **P.S. 122** is a former public school on First Avenue that helps anchor the downtown Off-Off-Broadway scene. Multiple performance spaces assure a big range of shows—from the unestablished to the incomprehensible. Every August The New York Fringe Fest brings hundreds of acts to storefront theaters, street corners, and even a few legitimate stages across the Lower East Side. There's a dramatic range in dramatic quality, but a few companies and shows break out for brighter lights and bigger stages every year.

In another category, performance art (ridiculed by some stodgy critics as being neither), along with some pretty respectable satires of contemporary mores, regularly take over spaces (not theaters, kiddo, performance spaces) like the **Kitchen** and the **Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM).** These are the folks who cause furors over NEA grants; in extremis you may be splattered with bodily secretions, but generally the (out)rage is confined to the stage.



**Head of the classics...** How do you get to Carnegie Hall? Walk about 15 blocks southwest from Lincoln Center, which is what the New York Philharmonic threatened to do. Carnegie Hall was the Philharmonic's first home, and a

merger of two institutions would give New York the best band in America performing in some of the world's best acoustics. Both sides had second thoughts, and the Philharmonic is staying at Lincoln Center's **Avery Fisher Hall,** which is, to put it politely, acoustically challenged. It's still a great place to hear Beethoven and Mahler, however, and during the summer be sure to catch the Mostly Mozart Festival. Adjoining Avery Fisher is the more intimate (and acoustically satisfying) **Alice Tully Hall,** a cube that devotees of the Chamber Society of Lincoln Center and the assorted groups affiliated with the **Juilliard School** squeeze into. Julliard students also give frequent free recitals at Lincoln Center. The biggest music bonanza comes in August when Lincoln Center Out of Doors puts on over a hundred performances, days and nights. Best of all, it's all free.

Carnegie Hall will not want for great music even without the Philharmonic. The Isaac Stern Auditorium is the 2,804-seat main space, a super-classy spot to hear the best musicians in the world as they pass through Gotham. Upstairs is the Weill Recital Hall, an intimate space suited to recitals and chamber music. Fall of 2003 saw the opening of the ornate sycamore and maple Judith and Arthur Zankel Hall, a 644-seat auditorium hewn from the granite beneath the Stern Auditorium, with the same great acoustics that Carnegie Hall is famous for (though there's already grumbling about the sound of the subway, which passes just 9 ft. away). Expect classical musical at the Zankel, though the Carnegie has lately been branching out to embrace less traditional performers like Youssou N'Dour and David Byrne. The cerebral modern-music crowd hangs out at **Merkin Concert Hall,** just north of Lincoln Center, where they discuss music matters in hushed and reverent whispers. Make no mistake: This stuff is not for everybody, and the likelihood is slim that you'll meet someone at intermission whose specialty is light banter. But the chance that you'll find yourself sitting next to the composer is pretty good, and even if you know nothing of 12-tone architectures or sound-poems, eavesdropping on post-performance conversations can be entertaining as well as instructional.

In halls all over town, the **World Music Institute** lures string-and-reed junkies to listen to the unusual performances that regularly crop up on its schedule. Church-concert enthusiasts will want to make the subway trek

Uptown to the **Cathedral of St. John the Divine,** a vast superterranean cavern where the fare runs from New Age acts, such as the Paul Winter Consort, to performances of Native American music and dance, to AIDS benefit concerts.

Of all the world's barges dedicated to chamber music, ***Bargemusic*** is my favorite. Docked just off the Fulton Ferry landing in Brooklyn Heights, *Bargemusic* has a 130-seat recital room that hosts over a hundred concerts a year. With priceless views and relatively cheap tickets (usually $35, and just $20 for students), the barge fills quickly, so reserve your tickets well in advance.

**State-of-the art house...** Movies are pushing $10 a seat, but the steep prices don't seem to scare the crowds away. Most anything new will sell out half an hour in advance, or even earlier on weekends and rainy days. Show up well ahead of time or buy in advance (Moviefone has all the latest show times and sells advance tickets for a $1.50 service fee; tel 212/777-FILM).

The art houses tend to be a little less hectic, with a wider range of films. The **Film Forum** retains an unrivaled reputation for uncovering independent gems as well as reviving lost classics. **Anthology Film Archives** monitors the avant-garde, presenting documentary shorts and experimental celluloid from indie legends such as Stan Brackidge. Two Boots Pizzeria in the East Village has augmented its movie-rental business with the 100-seat **Pioneer Theater,** specializing in cult classics and no-budget independents. Weekly short-film "slams" help filmmakers keep pace with poets. The **Whitney Museum of American Art** has a respectable interest in films by gay, lesbian, ethnic, and African-American movie- and videomakers (the Whitney's Biennial show features a film and video program alongside more traditional artworks).

In Queens, the **American Museum of the Moving Image** attempts to do for film what the Metropolitan Museum has done for oil and canvas. Lincoln Center's **Walter Reade Theatre** puts together ambitious surveys of whole directorial careers, and in late September provides film buffs with the New York Film Festival. The hottest new festival is TriBeCa's, coming up on a third year of discovering new talent in May, 2004. Skulk around the 'hood

### Free Flicks: Summer Screenings Under the Stars

*The city is just giving away free movies. All summer long, car-less New Yorkers go to the drive-in with screenings at parks across the city. The most popular series is the* ***HBO/Bryant Park Summer Film Festival*** *(tel 212/512-5700). Classic, campy flick faves in authentic black and white play Monday nights from June to August on the big lawn behind the library. The park fills up quickly so arrive early, although the pre-show people-watching is just as entertaining as the films. A less-crowded alternative is* ***RiverFlicks*** *(tel 212/533-7275). In July and August recent hits like* 8 Mile *and* Gladiator *are projected onto screens along Downtown stretches of the Hudson. Pier 54 does the hosting on Wednesday nights, and Pier 25 covers Friday nights. The amazing sight of the Brooklyn Bridge at night provides the backdrop for the* ***Brooklyn Bridge Park Summer Film Series*** *(tel 718/802-0603), which screens Brooklyn-themed fare on Thursday nights in July and August. Viewers assemble in a DUMBO park along the East River, at the site of the old Fulton Ferry Landing (F train to York St., or A/C trains to High St.). Queens residents have their own free film fest as well.* ***On the Waterfront*** *(tel 718/784-4520) presents foreign movies on Wednesday nights in July and August inside Socrates Sculpture Park in Long Island City. The park, an old dump site transformed into a sculptural oasis, has stunning skyline (and somewhat less-inspiring Costco) views. (Take the F train to 21st St./Queensbridge and walk west toward the East River.) All of New York's outdoor films start around dusk, which is 8 or 8:30pm in mid-summer. Pack a picnic and you can have dinner while luxuriating in movies under the stars. Well, star.*

and you might run into Robert DeNiro, a major force behind the festival. The **Quad Cinema** in Chelsea is gay-friendly, nearly always screening something of interest for the third gender. A tasty foreign-film diet can be cultivated at **Lincoln Plaza,** where the piped-in music between showings is as sophisticated as the well-heeled crowd.

The most varied film menu in the city can be found in downtown Brooklyn, at the Brooklyn Academy of Music's **BAM Rose Cinemas.** Recent art-house releases share theater space with comprehensive retrospectives that range from pre-talkie flicks to the films of the Caribbean Diaspora. From Thursday to Sunday you can take advantage of BAM's "Dinner and a Movie" promotion, which features a glass of wine and a two-course dinner at BAMcafé for $21.

Downtowners have grumbled for years about the art-house **Angelika Film Center,** with its small screens and seats that rumble with every passing subway car. A welcome new alternative in the neighborhood is the **Landmark**

**Sunshine Theater,** a state-of-the-art indie palace housed in a former Yiddish playhouse on East Houston. The follies are long gone, but Deco decadence lives on at the **Ziegfeld,** with its bigger-than-life single screen. An almost undiscovered theater complex is the **United Artists Battery Park Stadium 16,** with comfy seats and oodles of screens, but not the crowds that can overwhelm Manhattan's other suburban-style megaplexes. If the dorky IMAX is your thing, check out the hilariously kitschy **Sony Lincoln Square Cinema** kajillionoplex.

**Spoken word...** A neo-Beatnik revival of "spoken word" or "performance" poetry has been invigorating New York's literary life. Used to be that almost none of the poets who took the stage at the **Nuyorican Poets Cafe** had published anything, but limber-lyricked wordsmiths like Paul Beatty, Reg E. Gaines, Sapphire, and Carl Hancock Rux are changing all that. **The Bowery Poetry Club** is a poesy outpost on a gradually gentrifying strip just above Houston. Come in for a friendly ramshackle vibe and alternating poetry, music, and theater 7 nights a week. **St. Mark's Church-in-the-Bowery** has hosted readings since Kerouac and Ginsberg made it a favored hangout, and the beat, from rap-poetry to all-too-free verse, goes on. Ginsberg is remembered in his own neighborhood, the East Village, with the Allen Ginsberg Poetry Festival every August. It's part of Howl!, a newly inaugurated arts fest dedicated to preserving the E.V.'s artistic legacy before gentrification wipes the last vestiges away. Check out the monthly Poetry Calendar, available at **St. Mark's Bookshop,** to scan all of the poetic offerings.

**KGB Bar** in the East Village favors fiction, with weekly scheduled readings from published authors. **Housing Works Used Book Café,** in addition to the eponymous used books and cafe, hosts a wide range of authors. All proceeds go to a worthy cause (services for homeless New Yorkers living with HIV and AIDS).

The **92nd Street Y** has a fabulous series of lectures, readings, and a Sunday-morning brunch program that alternates between visiting critics and biographers. Some of the heavy hitters recently heard at the Y include Doris Lessing, Toni Morrison, Arthur Miller, and John Updike.

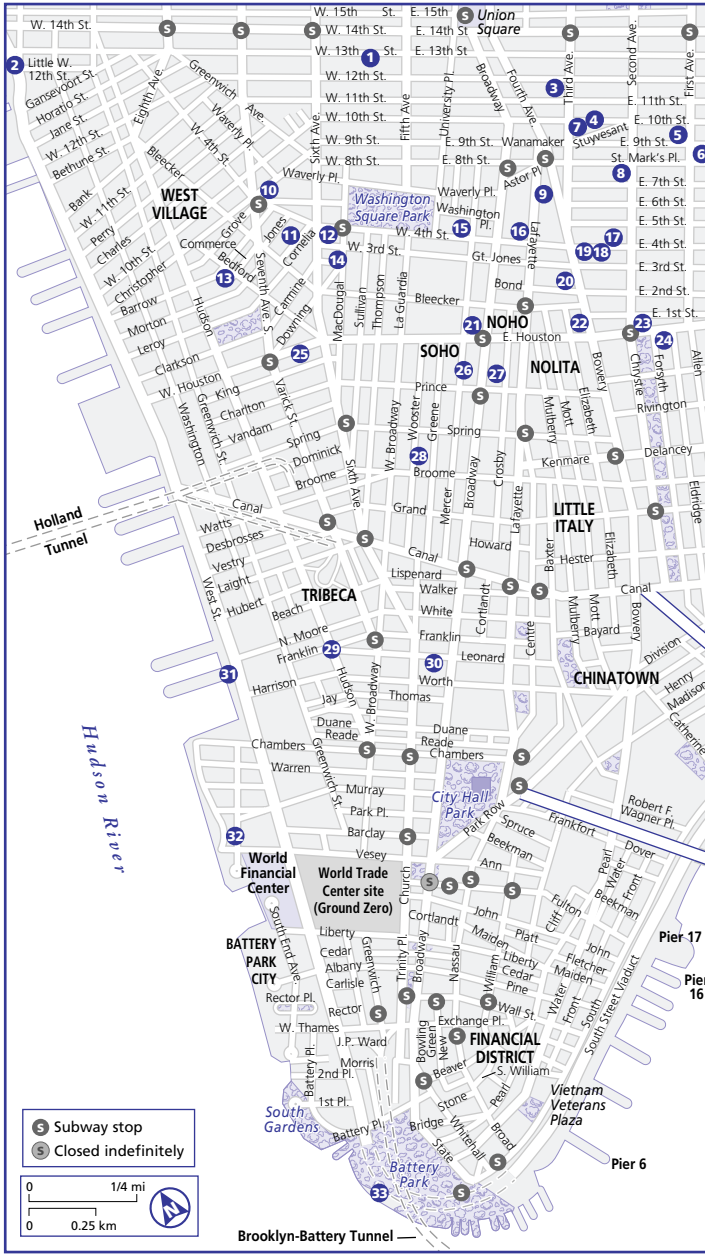
The **Dia Center for the Arts,** on West 22nd Street, also offers readings, featuring noted poets on the order of Richard Howard and Thom Gunn.

**Sporting news...** With all the obscure subcultures that fill Manhattan, professional sports often get lost in the shuffle, but when a big game is on fans come out of the woodwork in legions. If a New York team is in contention, every neighborhood bar with a TV becomes the perfect place to impersonate an insider. As soon as the Yankees record that final out, over the cheers in the bar you'll hear an accompanying chorus of horns from the street, and the reports of a few pistols being fired into the air. In addition to the humongous, corporate **ESPNZone** in Times Square, Manhattan has a big collection of homegrown sports bars. **Timeout** (349 Amsterdam Ave.; tel 212/362–5400) offers instant camaraderie and every telecast you can imagine, though if you want to sit down for a big game, you'll have to make an advance reservation. The **Sporting Club** (99 Hudson St.; tel 212-219-0900) has enough TVs to make Circuit City blush, but it keeps TriBeCa sports fans happy. Near Madison Square Garden, The **Triple Crown** (330 Seventh Ave.; tel 212/736-1575) boasts genial Irish bartenders and surprisingly decent food. Sports fans from across the pond can catch up on all the latest football (pronounced "soccer" on this shore) at **Nevada Smith's** (74 Third Ave.; tel 212/982-2591). Never a line for the ladies room either. The Mick may be gone but **Mickey Mantle's** (42 Central Park S.; tel 212/688–7777) lives on. Of course, if barroom boob tubes strike you as pale substitutes for the real thing, you can mosey up to **Yankee Stadium** in the Bronx or **Shea Stadium** in Queens to watch, respectively, the storied Yankees and the upstart Mets. In 2001, New York doubled its number of baseball teams, adding the Brooklyn Cyclones (Mets farm hands who call Keyspan Park at Coney Island home) and the Staten Island Yankees (pinstriped junior leaguers who play in the Richmond County Bank Ballpark beside the ferry terminal). Both waterfront parks have been instant hits, and the affordable tickets sell briskly so check ahead for availability.

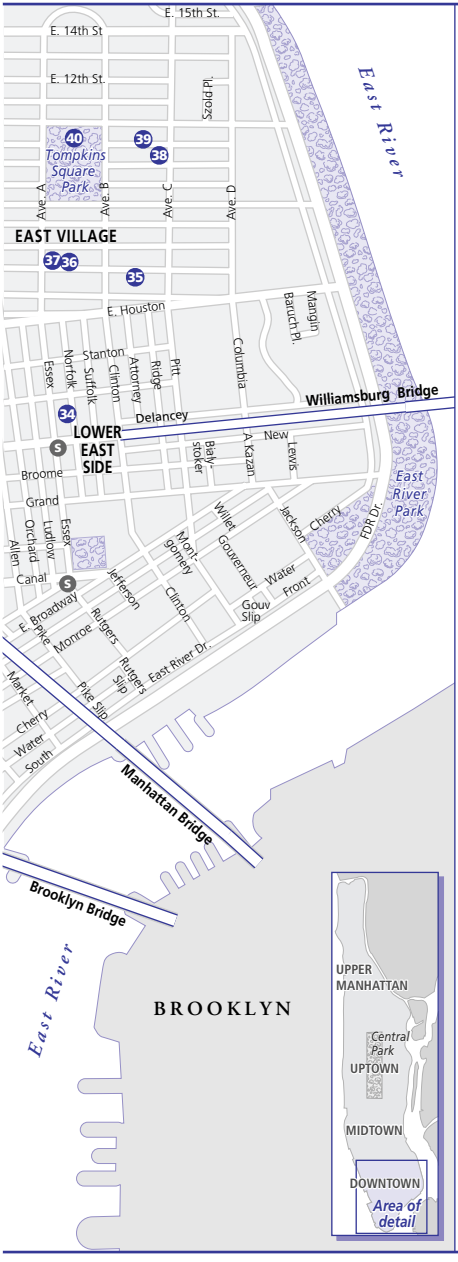
For football fans, the Giants and Jets knock heads with their NFL rivals at **Giants Stadium** in the Meadowlands; tickets are hard to find for Jets games and impossible for

the Giants. The hockey puck flies at **Madison Square Garden,** where the 1994 Stanley Cup–champion Rangers slap it around. The 2000 and 2003 champs, the New Jersey Devils, play at the **Continental Airlines Arena** across the Hudson, while the New York Islanders can be found at the **Nassau Coliseum** in Uniondale on Long Island. During basketball season the New York Knicks share the Garden with the Rangers; and their Jersey counterparts, the Nets, alternate with the Devils at Continental Airlines Arena. The **U.S.T.A. National Tennis Center** in Flushing, Queens, plays host each year to the U.S. Open Tennis Championships (tickets cost a mint and must be secured a year in advance), a grueling 2-week affair around Labor Day that showcases the best the sport has to offer in a brilliantly redesigned space including a newer, larger stadium with superb sightlines. Later each fall, the New York City Marathon is run in November on a 26-mile course that winds through each of Manhattan's five boroughs. You can cheer from streetside, or go to Central Park to watch them at the finish line. There's thoroughbred horseracing at **Aqueduct Racetrack** and at **Belmont Park,** home to the hotly followed final jewel in the Triple Crown, the Belmont Stakes.

# Map 17: Downtown Entertainment




ENTERTAINMENT





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Pioneer Theater **36**
Quad Cinema **1**
The Sporting Club **29**
St. Mark's Bookshop **7**
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Tompkins Square Park **40**
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# Map 18: Midtown, Chelsea & Flatiron District Entertainment



- Birdland **55**
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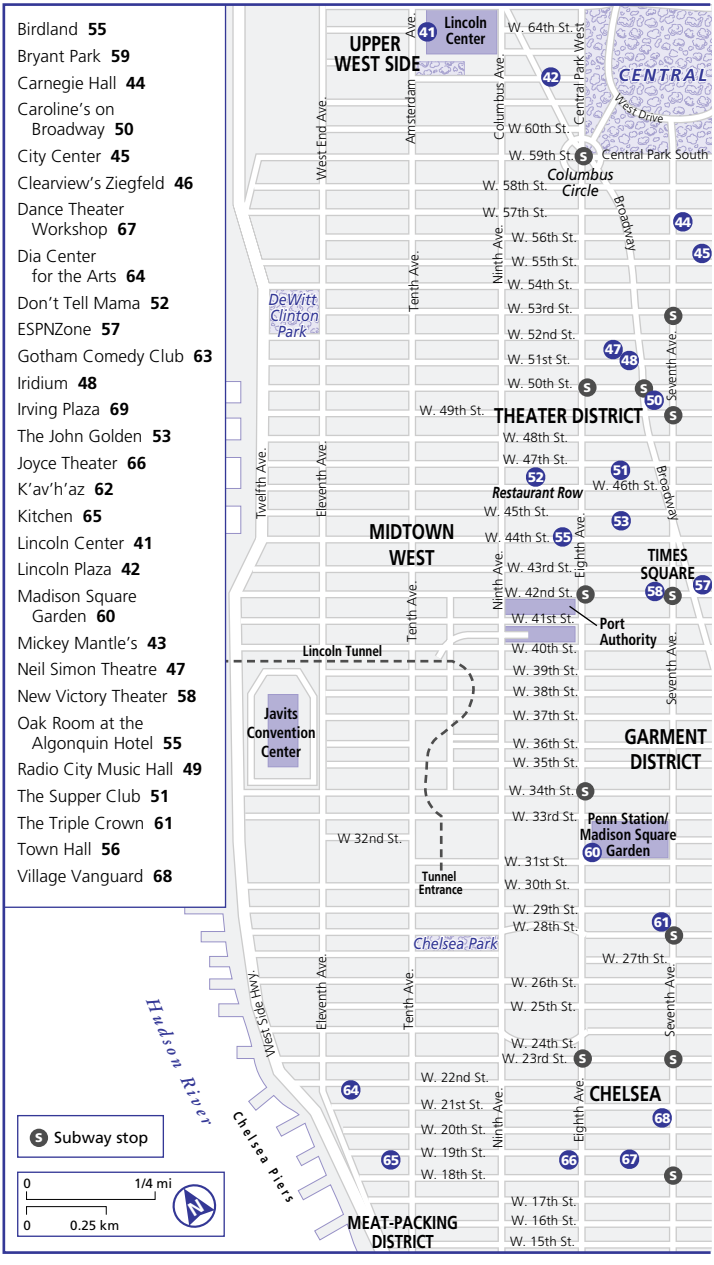

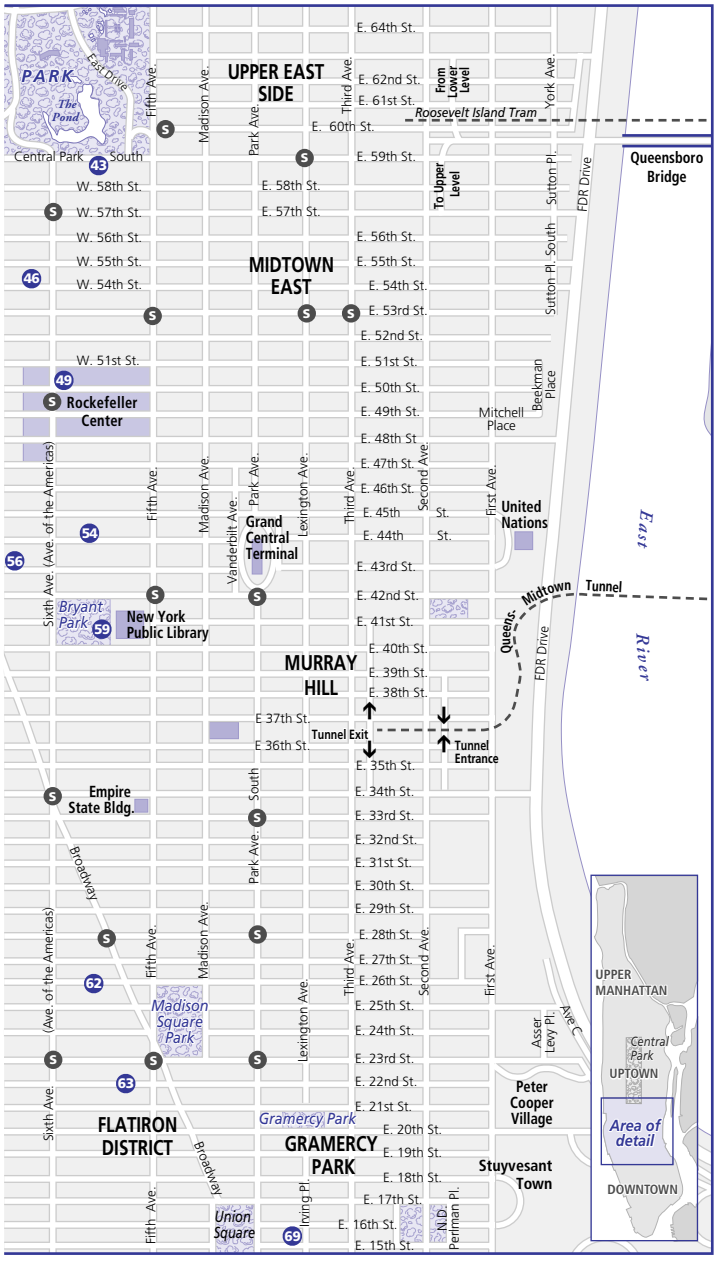
PARK
East Drive
The Pond
Central Park South
Fifth Ave.
Madison Ave.
Park Ave.
Third Ave.
Second Ave.
First Ave.
York Ave.
UPPER EAST SIDE
From Lower Level
Roosevelt Island Tram
To Upper Level
Sutton Pl.
Sutton Pl. South
FDR Drive
Queensboro Bridge
E. 64th St.
E. 62nd St.
E. 61st St.
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E. 15th St.
W. 58th St.
W. 57th St.
W. 56th St.
W. 55th St.
W. 54th St.
W. 51st St.
MIDTOWN EAST
Rockefeller Center
Mitchell Place
Beekman Place
United Nations
Grand Central Terminal
Vanderbilt Ave.
Lexington Ave.
Sixth Ave. (Ave. of the Americas)
Bryant Park
New York Public Library
MURRAY HILL
Tunnel Exit
Tunnel Entrance
Midtown Tunnel
Queens-
East River
Empire State Bldg.
Broadway
Madison Square Park
Lexington Ave.
Sutton Pl. South
Asser Levy Pl.
Ave. C
Peter Cooper Village
Stuyvesant Town
FLATIRON DISTRICT
Gramercy Park
GRAMERCY PARK
Irving Pl.
N.D. Perlman Pl.
Union Square
UPPER MANHATTAN
Central Park
UPTOWN
Area of detail
DOWNTOWN
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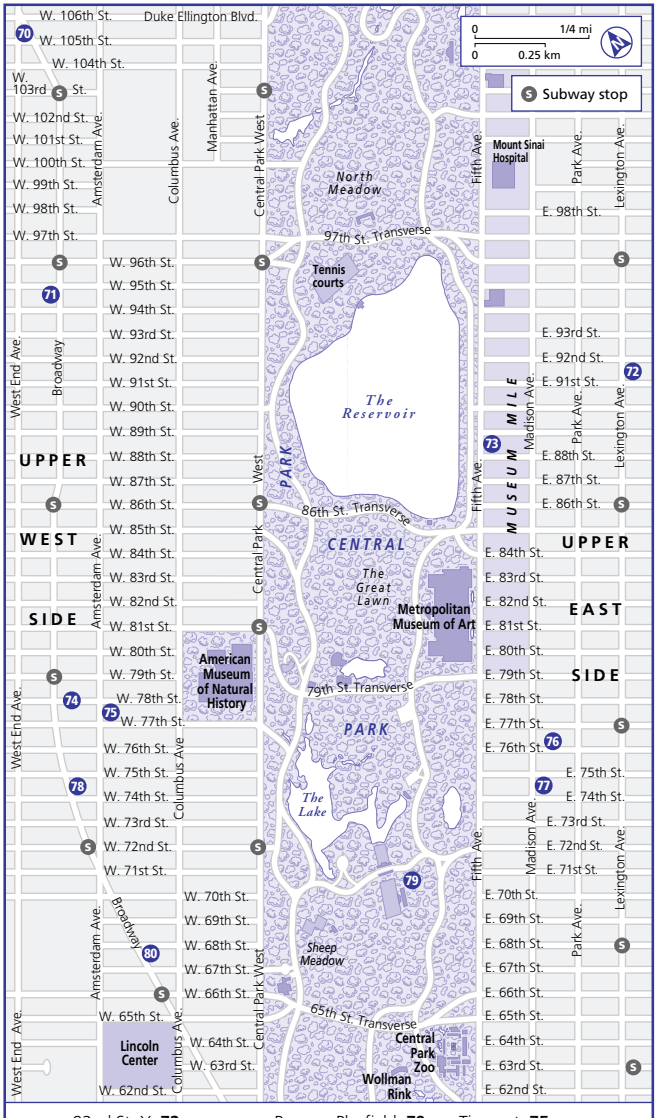
# Map 19: Uptown Entertainment

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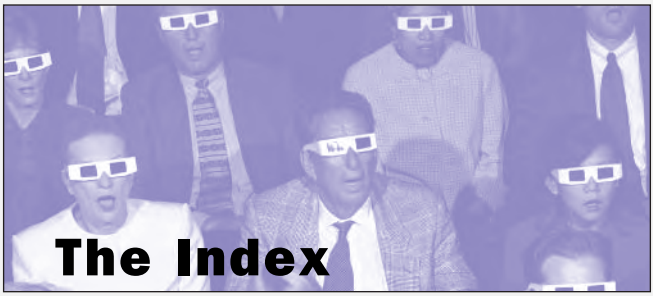
The CaféCarlyle in the Carlyle Hotel **76**
Guggenheim Museum **73**
Rumsey Playfield **79**
Smoke **70**
Sony Lincoln Square Cinema **80**
Stand-up NY **74**
Symphony Space **71**
Timeout **75**
Whitney Museum of American Art **77**



# The Index

**Alice Tully Hall (p. 252)** UPPER WEST SIDE Avery Fisher's younger sister, a smaller venue that comfortably contains the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center.... *Tel 212/875-5050. 65th St. & Broadway. 1/9 trains to 66th St./Lincoln Center. Ticket prices vary.*

**See Map 18 on p. 260, bullet 41.**

**Amato Opera Company (p. 247)** EAST VILLAGE Where young opera talents cut their chops on the Bowery; most shows under $30.... *Tel 212/228-8200. www.amato.org. 319 Bowery. F/V trains to Broadway/Lafayette or 6 train to Bleecker St. Regular performance tickets $28.*

**American Ballet Theater (ABT) (p. 246)** UPPER WEST SIDE Where the classics thrive, performed by some outstanding younger dancers.... *Tel 212/477–3030. www.abt.org. Lincoln Center. 1/9 trains to 66th St./Lincoln Center. Ticket prices vary.*

**See Map 18 on p. 260, bullet 41.**

**American Museum of the Moving Image** See "Diversions."

**Angelika Film Center (p. 254)** NOHO The upstairs cafe has all the charm of an East German train depot, and the theaters are narrow with small screens, but none of that seems to keep the SoHo and NoHo cognoscente away..... *Tel 212/995–2000. www.angelikafilmcenter.com. 18 W. Houston St. F/V trains to Broadway/Lafayette or 6 train to Bleecker St. Tickets $10.*

**See Map 17 on p. 258, bullet 21.**

**Anthology Film Archives (p. 253)** EAST VILLAGE Though the theater itself comes pretty close to a high school auditorium, this tiny Downtown institution shows incredible—if incredibly obscure—films.... *Tel 212/505–5181. anthologyfilmarchives.org. 32–34 2nd Ave. F/V trains to 2nd Ave. or 6 train to Bleecker St. Tickets $8.*

**See Map 17 on p. 258, bullet 23.**

**Aqueduct Racetrack** (p. 257) ROCKAWAY BEACH, QUEENS Thoroughbred racing here runs from late Oct or early Nov to early May.... *Tel 718/641-4700. www.nyra.com/aqueduct. Rockaway Beach, Queens. A train to North Conduit. Closed Mon and Tues. Tickets Free–$3.*

**Avery Fisher Hall** (p. 252) UPPER WEST SIDE The posh crowd shouldn't ruin an evening with the generally fabulous, if rarely provocative, New York Philharmonic.... *Tel 212/875-5030. www.lincolncenter.org. Lincoln Center. 1/9 trains to 66th St./Lincoln Center. Ticket prices vary.*

**See Map 18 on p. 260, bullet 41.**

***Bargemusic*** (p. 253) BROOKLYN HEIGHTS, BROOKLYN This floating chamber music hall is as sublime as a barge can get.... *Tel 718/624-2083. www.bargemusic.org. Fulton Ferry Landing, Brooklyn Heights. 2/3 trains to Clark St., A/C trains to High St. Tickets $35–$40, $20 for students.*

**Beacon Theater** (p. 242) UPPER WEST SIDE A decent-size house with sub-decent sound that books a wide variety of mainstream and semi-mainstream acts.... *Tel 212/496-7070. www.livetonight.com. 2124 Broadway. 1/2/3/9 trains to 72nd St. Ticket prices vary.*

**See Map 19 on p. 262, bullet 78.**

**Belmont Park** (p. 257) BELMONT, LONG ISLAND Whenever the horses don't run at Aqueduct (see above), they're racing here. Season May to mid-July and late Aug or early Sept to Oct.... *Tel 718/641-4700. www.nyra.com/belmont. Hempstead Ave., Belmont, Long Island. LIRR Belmont Express from Penn Station or Flatbush Ave. Closed Mon and Tues. Tickets $2–$5.*

**Birdland** (p. 243) MIDTOWN WEST Yes, as in "Lullaby of...." The quarters have changed, but the jazz is still first-rate, and you can take a deep breath without knocking over your neighbor's glass.... *Tel 212/581-3080. www.birdlandjazz.com. 315 W. 44th St. A/C/E trains to 42nd St. Tickets $20–$35.*

**See Map 18 on p. 260, bullet 55.**

**Blue Note** (p. 242) WEST VILLAGE Expensive tickets and too damn much merchandise, but also the place for live performances by jazz's giants like Herbie Hancock and Chick Corea.... *Tel 212/475–8592. www.bluenote.net. 131 W. 3rd St. A/C/E or F/V trains to W. 4th St. Tickets $25–$35, $5 cover for late-night jams.*

**See Map 17 on p. 258, bullet 12.**

**Bottom Line** (p. 242) WEST VILLAGE Easy-listening heartthrobs and fading folkie greats, no guitar-slashing punksters. Still, a groovy

standby.... *Tel 212/502-3471. www.bottomlinecabaret.com. 15 W. 4th St. N/R trains to 8th St. or 6 train to Bleecker St. Ticket prices vary.*

**See Map 17 on p. 258, bullet 15.**

**Bowery Poetry Club** **(p. 255)** EAST VILLAGE Poetry is just the beginning, also music, theater, and beer.... *Tel 212/614-0505. www.bowerypoetry.com. 308 Bowery. F/V trains to Broadway/Lafayette. 6 train to Bleecker St. Ticket prices vary, generally $5–$12.*

**See Map 17 on p. 258, bullet 22.**

**Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM)** **(p. 246, 247, 251)** DOWNTOWN BROOKLYN Where the avant-garde hangs its beret.... *Tel 718/636-4100. www.bam.org. 30 Lafayette Ave., Brooklyn. 2/3/4/5 trains to Atlantic Ave. or M/N/R/W trains to Pacific St. Ticket prices vary.*

**Bryant Park** **(p. 254)** MIDTOWN WEST Pleasant oasis next to the Public Library offers free outdoor films in warm weather.... *No phone. 42nd St. between 5th and 6th aves. B/D/F/V/7 trains to 42nd St. Free.*

**See Map 18 on p. 260, bullet 59.**

**Café Carlyle** **(p. 243, 244)** UPPER EAST SIDE Two words: Bobby Short. When he is elsewhere, look for the likes of Julie Wilson and Barbara Cook.... *Tel 212/570-7189. 35 E. 76th St. 6 train to 77th St. Tickets $35–$75, plus food and drink minimums.*

**See Map 19 on p. 262, bullet 76.**

**Carnegie Club** **(p. 244)** MIDTOWN WEST Swanky lounge with swing music on Fridays and a Sinatra cabaret on Saturdays.... *Tel 212/957-9676. 156 W. 56th St. N/R/Q/W trains to 57th St. Ticket prices vary.*

**Carnegie Hall** **(p. 247)** MIDTOWN WEST The most celebrated performance space for live music in New York and perhaps the world. The air is thick with the ghosts of greats.... *Tel 212/247-7800. www.carnegiehall.org. 156 W. 57th St. B/F/N/Q/R/W trains to 57th St. Ticket prices vary.*

**See Map 18 on p. 260, bullet 44.**

**Castle Clinton** See "Diversions."

**Caroline's on Broadway** **(p. 248)** MIDTOWN WEST An essential space for stand-up in Manhattan. The room is huge, but surprisingly intimate.... *Tel 212/757-4100. www.carolines.com. 1626 Broadway. 1/9 trains to 50th St. or N/R trains to 49th St. Ticket prices vary.*

**See Map 18 on p. 260, bullet 50.**

**Cathedral of St. John the Divine** (p. 253) UPPER WEST SIDE The largest Gothic cathedral in the world, still unfinished. So vast you wouldn't think it would be much fun, but it's actually one of the city's most free-spirited concert spaces.... *Tel 212/662-2133. www.stjohndivine.org. 1047 Amsterdam Ave. 1/9 or B/C trains to 110th St./Cathedral Pkwy. Ticket prices vary.*

**Celebrate Brooklyn!** (p. 266) PROSPECT PARK, BROOKLYN Free music under the naked sky in Prospect Park every summer.... *Tel 718/855-7882. www.brooklynx.org. Prospect Park Bandshell, Prospect Park West at 9th St., Brooklyn. F train to 7th Ave. or 2/3 trains to Grand Army Plaza. Free.*

**Cherry Lane Theater** (p. 251) WEST VILLAGE This small and picturesque Off-Broadway theater in a hidden-away corner of the West Village near Sheridan Square usually books lower-key artistically substantial shows.... *Tel 212/989-2020. www.cherrylane theater.com. 38 Commerce St. 1/9 trains to Christopher St. Ticket prices vary.*

**See Map 17 on p. 258, bullet 13.**

**City Center** (p. 246) MIDTOWN WEST Before Lincoln Center took over its sprawling expanse, this was one of New York's performance mansions. Nowadays, it hosts a mix of dance and music.... *Tel 212/581–1212. www.citycenter.org. 131 W. 55th St. F/N/Q/R/W trains to 57th St., B/D/E trains to 7th Ave. Ticket prices vary.*

**See Map 18 on p. 260, bullet 45.**

**Clearview's Ziegfeld** (p. 255) MIDTOWN WEST The biggest of New York's big screens. Gotham's antidote to the postage-stamps at the multiplex.... *Tel 212/777-FILM, #602. 141 W. 54th St. E/V trains to 5th Ave. Tickets $10.*

**See Map 18 on p. 260, bullet 46.**

**The C-Note** (p. 244) EAST VILLAGE Noteworthy Avenue C spot for live jazz and its musical cousins.... *Tel 212/677-8142. www.the cnote.com. 157 Ave. C. L train to 1st Ave. Tickets generally $5 or less.*

**See Map 17 on p. 258, bullet 38.**

**Comedy Cellar** (p. 248) WEST VILLAGE Head beneath street level for the funniest room in the Village.... *Tel 212/254-3480. www. comedycellar.com. 117 MacDougal St. A/C/E/F/V trains to W. 4th St. Tickets $5–$12 plus 2 drink minimum.*

**See Map 17 on p. 258, bullet 14.**

**Continental Airlines Arena** (p. 257) EAST RUTHERFORD, NEW JERSEY Cavernous arena across the Hudson in New Jersey where NHL's Devils and NBA's Nets compete.... *Tel 201/935–3900. www.meadowlands.com. The Meadowlands, East Rutherford, NJ. Buses from Port Authority. Ticket prices vary.*

**Cornelia Street Cafe** (p. 244) WEST VILLAGE The birthplace of the singer-songwriter movement.... *Tel 212/989-9319. www.conelia streetcafe.com. 29 Cornelia St. A/C/E/F/V trains to W. 4th St. No cover.*

**See Map 17 on p. 258, bullet 11.**

**Dance Theater Workshop (DTW)** (p. 246) CHELSEA Chelsea's crucible for developing and spotting new choreographic and dance talent.... *Tel 212/924-0077. www.dtw.org. 219 W. 19th St. 1/9 trains to 18th St. Ticket prices vary.*

**See Map 18 on p. 260, bullet 67.**

**Den of Cin** (p. 248) EAST VILLAGE A small performance space beneath Two Boots pizza; cover charges often include a complimentary slice.... *Tel 212/254-0800. www.twoboots.com/theden. 44 Avenue A at E. 3rd St. F/V trains to 2nd Avenue. Ticket prices vary.*

**See Map 17 on p. 258, bullet 37.**

**Dia Center for the Arts** (p. 256) CHELSEA A Way West Chelsea gallery that provides an excellent space for a variety of artistic media.... *Tel 212/989-5566. www.diachelsea.org. 548 W. 22nd St. C/E trains to 23rd St. Ticket prices vary.*

**See Map 18 on p. 260, bullet 64.**

**Don't Tell Mama** (p. 244) MIDTOWN WEST After work hangout for chorus members, vanity cabaret acts booked in the back.... *Tel 212/757–0788. 343 W. 46th St. A/C/E trains to 42nd St., N/Q/R/W or 1/2/3/9 trains to Times Square. Ticket prices vary.*

**See Map 18 on p. 260, bullet 52.**

**The Duplex** (p. 244) WEST VILLAGE First stop for a variety of cabaret and comedy acts, along with the obligatory piano bars.... *Tel 212/255–5438. 61 Christopher St. at 7th Ave. 1/9 trains to Christopher St. Ticket prices vary.*

**See Map 17 on p. 258, bullet 10.**

**ESPNZone** (p. 256) MIDTOWN WEST Eat, drink, and be merry while you watch a game (or several at once) on the more than 200 monitors.... *Tel 212/921-ESPN. www.espn.go.com/espninc/zone. 1472 Broadway. 1/2/3/7/9 or N/Q/R/W trains to Times Square. Free.*

**See Map 18 on p. 260, bullet 57.**

**Fez Under Time Café** See "Nightlife."

**See Map 17 on p. 258, bullet 16.**

**Film Forum** (p. 253) WEST VILLAGE Famously uncomfortable seats, but all is forgiven once the projector starts. Impeccable scheduling and a great crowd, popular with celebrities reaffirming their avant-garde cinematic cred.... *Tel 212/727-8110. www.filmforum.com. 209 W. Houston St. 1/9 trains to Houston St. Tickets $10.*

**See Map 17 on p. 258, bullet 25.**

**FringeNYC** (p. 268) LOWER EAST SIDE Enlivening the August doldrums by bringing hundreds of performances to the Lower East Side through the annual New York Fringe Fest.... *Tel 212/279-4488. www.fringenyc.org. Various locations. Ticket prices vary, generally $5–$10.*

**Galapagos** (p. 248) WILLIAMSBURG, BROOKLYN Ultra hip Williamsburg's performance central, with comedy nights in addition to burlesque, spoken word, theater, and live music. Not to mention a groovy moat.... *Tel 718/782-5188. www.galapagosartspace.com. 70 N. 6th St., Williamsburg, Brooklyn. L train to Bedford Ave. Ticket prices vary, generally around $5.*

**Giants Stadium** (p. 256) EAST RUTHERFORD, NEW JERSEY Arena rock acts, football's Jets and Giants. A long way to go to spend a lot of money for a crummy view of the Stones, but it's a great place to watch football.... *Tel 201/935-3900. www.meadowlands.com. The Meadowlands, East Rutherford, NJ. Buses from Port Authority.*

**Gotham Comedy Club** (p. 248) CHELSEA New talent plays on Tuesdays, established talent on the other nights. A comfortable place to laugh.... *Tel 212/367-9000. www.gothamcomedyclub.com. 34 W. 22nd St. F/N/R/V trains to 23rd St. Tickets $8–$12 plus 2 drink minimum.*

**See Map 18 on p. 260, bullet 63.**

**Guggenheim Museum** See "Diversions."

**Housing Works Used Book Café** (p. 255) SOHO Surprisingly big names stop by to sing and read. A great selection of used books, too.... *Tel 212/334-3324. www.housingworks.org. 126 Crosby St. F/V trains to Broadway/Lafayette or 6 train to Bleecker St. Free.*

**See Map 17 on p. 258, bullet 27.**

**Howl! Festival of East Village Arts** (p. 255) EAST VILLAGE Presented by The Federation of East Village Artists, every August in and around Tompkins Square Park, including the Allen Ginsberg Poetry Festival and the Charlie Parker Jazz Festival.... *Tel 212/502-1225. www.howlfestival.com. Various locations. Ticket prices vary.*

**Iridium** (p. 243) MIDTOWN WEST Where knowledgeable music junkies gather to score a glimpse of jazz giants. Full dinner menu, too.... *Tel 212/582–2121. www.iridiumjazzclub.com. 1650 Broadway at 51st St. 1/9 trains to 50th St. Ticket prices vary.*

**See Map 18 on p. 260, bullet 48.**

**Irving Plaza** (p. 242) UNION SQUARE Huge former cabaret hosts alternative bands and performers.... *Tel 212/777–6800. www.irvingplaza.com. 17 Irving Place. 4/5/6, N/Q/R/W, or L trains to Union Square. Ticket prices vary.*

**See Map 18 on p. 260, bullet 69.**

**Jean Cocteau Repertory Theater** (p. 251) EAST VILLAGE The Bowery's home for Brecht and other worthy revivals.... *Tel 212/677–0060. www.jeancocteaurep.org. 330 Bowery. F/V trains to Broadway/Lafayette or 6 train to Bleecker St. Ticket prices generally $40–$50.*

**See Map 17 on p. 258, bullet 20.**

**Joe's Pub** (p. 244) NOHO Inside the Joseph Papp, a gorgeous new spot to listen to cabaret, jazz, and moonlighting Broadway stars.... *Tel 212/539-8777. www.joespub.com. 425 Lafayette St. 6 train to Astor Place or N/R trains to 8th St. Ticket prices vary.*

**See Map 17 on p. 258, bullet 9.**

**Joseph Papp Public Theater** (p. 251) NOHO Joe Papp, the late übermensch of New York theater, transformed this limited operation into a world leader in theatrical experimentation, so they named it after him.... *Tel 212/260-2400. www.publictheater.org. 425 Lafayette St. 6 train to Astor Place or N/R trains to 8th St. Ticket prices vary, some events free.*

**See Map 17 on p. 258, bullet 9.**

**Joyce Theater** (p. 246) CHELSEA & SOHO The best theater in New York for contemporary dance, it's also home to Eliot Feld's company, The Feld Ballet. Joyce SoHo is the more experimental Downtown location.... *Tel 212/242-0800. www.joyce.org. 175 8th Ave. C/E trains to 23rd St. or 1/9 trains to 18th St. Joyce SoHo, Tel 212/431-9233. 155 Mercer St., N/R to Prince St. Ticket prices vary.*

**See Map 17 on p. 258, bullet 26.**
**See Map 18 on p. 260, bullet 66.**

**Juilliard School** (p. 252) MIDTOWN WEST The famous school for the performing arts schedules numerous concerts by its students. Price is usually low to nil.... *Tel 212/799-5000, ext. 235. www.juilliard.edu. Lincoln Center. 1/9 trains to 66th St./Lincoln Center. Ticket prices Free–$20.*

**K'av'h'az** (p. 243) CHELSEA Along with the art on the walls, this Chelsea gallery offers inexpensive jazz most nights of the week.... *Tel 212/343-0612. www.kavehaz.com. 37 W. 26th St. F/V trains to 23rd St. Usually no cover, but $8 minimum food and drink.*

**See Map 18 on p. 260, bullet 62.**

**Keyspan Park** (p. 256) CONEY ISLAND, BROOKLYN Home of the Brooklyn Cyclones (future Mets), right off the legendary Coney Island boardwalk.... *Tel 718/449-8497. www.brooklyncyclones.com. W train to Stillwell Ave. Tickets under $8.*

**KGB Bar** (p. 255) EAST VILLAGE Walk up the tenement stairs for a roomful of Commie kitsch that attracts literary types. The literary readings here have already spawned a couple of books.... *Tel 212/505-3360. 85 E. 4th St. F/V trains to Broadway/Lafayette or 6 train to Bleecker St. Free.*

**See Map 17 on p. 258, bullet 30.**

**Kitchen** (p. 243, 251) CHELSEA Performance-art space extraordinaire.... *Tel 212/255–5793. www.thekitchen.org. 512 W. 19th St. A/C/E trains to 14th St. Ticket prices vary.*

**See Map 18 on p. 260, bullet 65.**

**Knitting Factory** (p. 243) TRIBECA Multiple bars and performance spaces make this a mini-amusement park for music on the cutting edge.... *Tel 212/219-3055. www.knittingfactory.com. 74 Leonard St. 1/9 trains to Franklin St. Ticket prices vary.*

**See Map 17 on p. 258, bullet 30.**

**La Mama** (p. 251) EAST VILLAGE Venerable East Village performance space with years of showcasing new talent under its belt.... *Tel 212/475-7710. www.lamama.org. 74 E. 4th St. F/V trains to Broadway/Lafayette or 6 train to Bleecker St. Ticket prices vary.*

**See Map 17 on p. 258, bullet 19.**

**Landmark Sunshine Theater** (p. 254) EAST VILLAGE The best art house in town with big, beautiful screens. Cult classics at midnight on the weekends.... *Tel 212/330-8182. www.landmark theatres.cm. 143 E. Houston. F/V trains to 2nd Avenue. Tickets $10.*

**See Map 17 on p. 258, bullet 24.**

**Lenox Lounge** (p. 242) HARLEM Restored Harlem jazz classic.... *Tel 212/427-0253. 288 Malcolm X Blvd. (Lenox Ave.). 2/3 trains to 125th St. Tickets under $15.*

**Lincoln Center** (p. 245) UPPER WEST SIDE Home to the Metropolitan Opera and (for now) the New York Philharmonic.... *Tel 212/875-5030. www.lincolncenter.org. 111 Amsterdam Ave. 1/9 trains to 66th St./Lincoln Center. Ticket prices vary.*

**See Map 18 on p. 260, bullet 41.**

**Lincoln Plaza** (p. 254) UPPER WEST SIDE If it's up for "Best Foreign Film" at the Oscars, it probably played here.... *Tel 212/757-2280. www.lincolnplazacinema.com. Broadway and 62nd St. A/B/C/D or 1/9 trains to 59th St./Columbus Circle. Tickets $10.*

**See Map 18 on p. 260, bullet 42.**

**Louis** (p. 243) EAST VILLAGE A wine bar and cafe in the way-east of the East Village, with views of luxuriant swaying willows through the windows.... *Tel 212/673-1190. 649 E. 9th St. L train to 1st Ave. Free.*

**See Map 17 on p. 258, bullet 39.**

**Madison Square Garden** (p. 242, 257) MIDTOWN WEST Home to the Rangers and the Knicks, a generic arena built in the 1960s on the site of the irreplaceable original Pennsylvania Station.... *Tel 212/465–6741. www.thegarden.com. 4 Pennsylvania Plaza, Seventh Ave. at 34th St. A/C/E or 1/2/3/9 trains to Penn Station. Ticket prices vary.*

**See Map 18 on p. 260, bullet 60.**

**Merkin Concert Hall** (p. 252) UPPER WEST SIDE Contemporary classical's NYC home, so brush up on those obscure composers.... *Tel 212/501–3330. www.ekcc.org. 129 W. 67th St. (Abraham Goodman House). 1/9 trains to 66th St./Lincoln Center. Ticket prices vary.*

**See Map 18 on p. 260, bullet 41.**

**Metropolitan Opera** (p. 247) UPPER WEST SIDE Where fur-bearing dames of the culture circuit drag their investment-banker husbands to hear the fat lady sing.... *Tel 212/362–6000. www.metopera.org. Lincoln Center. 1/9 trains to 66th St./Lincoln Center. Tickets $25–$275.*

**See Map 18 on p. 260, bullet 41.**

**Nassau Coliseum** (p. 257) UNIONDALE, LONG ISLAND This stadium could use some serious sprucing up, but if you're looking for a chance to watch NHL hockey, this is your place.... *Tel 516/794-9300. Uniondale, NY. LIRR to Hempstead Station, then N70, N71, or N72 bus. Ticket prices vary.*

**Neil Simon Theatre** (p. 250) MIDTOWN WEST Current home to the long-running musical, *Hairspray,* the theater named after New York's most famous playwright is in the heart of the Great White Way.... *Tel 212/757-8646. 250 W. 52nd St. 1/2/3/9 or N/Q/R/W trains to Times Square, or C/E trains to 50th St. Ticket prices vary.*

**See Map 18 on p. 260, bullet 47.**

**New Victory Theater** (p. 250) MIDTOWN WEST In the New Times Square, a new/old palace devoted to clowns, jugglers, and other child-friendly spectacles. Who could have imagined?... *Tel 646/223-3020. www.newvictory.org. 209 W. 42nd St. 1/2/3/9 or N/Q/R/W trains to Times Square. Ticket prices vary.*

**See Map 18 on p. 260, bullet 58.**

**New York City Ballet** (p. 245, 247) UPPER WEST SIDE Unabashed beauty, with a trust of ballets so good that you'll want to see most of them over and over.... *Tel 212/870-5500. www.nycballet.com. Lincoln Center. 1/9 trains to 66th St./Lincoln Center. Tickets $28–$66.*

**See Map 18 on p. 260, bullet 41.**

**New York City Opera** (p. 247) UPPER WEST SIDE The little opera that could—maybe. Much cheaper and much more fun than the Met's grander offerings across the plaza.... *Tel 212/870–5570.*

*www.nycopera.com. Lincoln Center. 1/9 trains to 66th St./Lincoln Center. Tickets $22–$95.*

**See Map 18 on p. 260, bullet 41.**

**New York Gilbert and Sullivan Players (p. 248)** UPPER WEST SIDE & MIDTOWN WEST Repertory productions of G & S classics at City Center (see above) and Symphony Space (see below).... *Tel 212/769-1000. www.nygasp.org. Ticket prices vary.*

**New York Theatre Workshop (p. 251)** EAST VILLAGE Avant-garde theater, including the occasional postcard from hip-hop nation, in a small East Village space....*Tel 212/239-6200. www.nytw.org. 79 E. 4th St. 6 train to Astor Place. Ticket prices vary.*

**See Map 17 on p. 258, bullet 18.**

**92nd St. Y (p. 255)** UPPER EAST SIDE Uptown home to the Ecco Press and Paris Review crowd, with readings by an unlikely number of world-class novelists, critics, and poets.... *Tel 212/996-1100. www.92ndsty.org. 1395 Lexington Ave. 4/5/6 trains to 96th St. Ticket prices vary.*

**See Map 19 on p. 262, bullet 72.**

**Nuyorican Poets Cafe (p. 255)** EAST VILLAGE This Downtown haunt practically invented the notorious Poetry Slam and continues to be the vanguard of the spoken word scene.... *Tel 212/505-8183. www.nuyorican.org. 236 E. 3rd St. F/V trains to 2nd Ave. Ticket prices vary, poetry slams $5.*

**See Map 17 on p. 258, bullet 35.**

**Oak Room at the Algonquin Hotel (p. 245)** MIDTOWN WEST Cabaret and more in a legendary Midtown space.... *Tel 212/840-6800. 59 W. 44th St. B/D/F/V to 42nd St. Ticket prices vary.*

**See Map 18 on p. 260, bullet 55.**

**Ohio Theater (p. 246)** SOHO Small SoHo theater that frequently presents experimental choreography.... *Tel 212/966-4844. 66 Wooster St. C/E trains to Spring St. or N/R trains to Prince St. Ticket prices vary.*

**See Map 17 on p. 258, bullet 28.**

**Orpheum** NOHO This Off-Broadway space is still hosting long-run Stomp, a frenzy of Brits with nearly shaved heads banging on all sorts of industrial detritus.... *Tel 212/477-2477. www.stomponline.com. 126 2nd Ave. 6 train to Astor Place or N/R trains to 8th St. Ticket prices vary.*

**See Map 17 on p. 258, bullet 8.**

**Pioneer Theater (p. 253)** EAST VILLAGE Single-screen movie house dedicated to talents that can't be seen anywhere else. Eclectic and welcoming.... *Tel 212/254-3300. www.twoboots.com/pioneer. 155 E. 3rd St. at Ave. A. F/V trains to 2nd Ave. Tickets $9.*

**See Map 17 on p. 258, bullet 36.**

**P.S. 122** (p. 246, 251) EAST VILLAGE Mabou Mines in the back, as well as whatever/whoever's in the main space, consistently push the extremes of Downtown performance.... *Tel 212/477-5288. www.ps122.org. 150 1st Ave. 6 train to Astor Place. Ticket prices vary.*

**See Map 17 on p. 258, bullet 6.**

**Quad Cinema** (p. 254) CHELSEA Indie films in Chelsea, specializing in gay-friendly fare.... *Tel 212/255-8800. www.quadcinema.com. 34 W. 13th St. F/V trains to 14th St. Tickets $9.50.*

**See Map 17 on p. 258, bullet 1.**

**Radio City Music Hall** (p. 244) MIDTOWN WEST Recently restored Art Deco cathedral with erratic booking and always the high-kicking Rockettes.... *Tel 212/247-4777. www.radiocity.com. 1260 6th Ave. B/D/F/V trains to Rockefeller Center. Ticket prices vary.*

**See Map 18 on p. 260, bullet 49.**

**Richmond County Bank Ballpark** (p. 256) STATEN ISLAND Home of the Staten Island Yankees, minor leaguers who play next to the Staten Island Ferry terminal.... *Tel 718/720-9200. www.siyanks.com. N/R trains to Whitehall St. 1/9 trains to South Ferry, take the ferry to Staten Island and follow the signs. Tickets under $10.*

**St. Mark's Bookshop** (p. 255) EAST VILLAGE Excellent collection of modern fiction, poetry, and alternative publications.... *Tel 212/260-7853. 31 3rd Ave. 6 train to Astor Place. Free.*

**See Map 17 on p. 258, bullet 7.**

**St. Mark's Church-in-the-Bowery** (p. 255) EAST VILLAGE Wonderful performance space on the edge of the East Village.... *Tel 212/674-8112 (Danspace Project) www.danspaceproject.org. Tel 212/533-4650 (Ontological Theater) www.ontological.com. Tel 212/674-0910 (Poetry Project). www.poetryproject.com. 131 E. 10th St. 6 train to Astor Place. Ticket prices vary.*

**See Map 17 on p. 258, bullet 4.**

**Shea Stadium** (p. 256) FLUSHING, QUEENS Early '60s-style ball yard at the end of the number 7 subway line is home to the Amazin' Mets.... *Tel 718/507-8499. www.mets.com. 126th St. at Roosevelt Ave., Queens. 7 train to Willets Point/Shea Stadium. Tickets $12–$43.*

**Smoke** (p. 243) UPPER WEST SIDE A new incarnation of the intimate (but smoke-free!) bebop club.... *Tel 212/864-6662. www.smokejazz.com. 2751 Broadway. 1/9 trains to 103rd St. Weekend covers, weeknights free with $10 drink minimum.*

**See Map 19 on p. 262, bullet 70.**

**Sony Lincoln Square Cinema** (p. 255) UPPER WEST SIDE The decor's gimmicky, with deliriously tacky re-creations of famous old movie palaces.... *Tel 212/50-LOEWS #638. 1992 Broadway. 1/9 trains to 66th St./Lincoln Center. Tickets $12.*

**See Map 19 on p. 262, bullet 80.**

**Stand-up NY** (p. 249) UPPER WEST SIDE The Upper West Side's answer to the comedy craze mixes amateur nights with more established acts.... *Tel 212/595-0850. www.standupny.com. 236 W. 78th St. 1/9 trains to 79th St. Tickets $7–$12 plus 2 drink minimum.*

**See Map 19 on p. 262, bullet 74.**

**SummerStage** (p. 245) CENTRAL PARK Like a music festival in miniature, with free sounds all summer long in the heart of Central Park.... *Tel 212/360-2777. www.summerstage.org. Rumsey Playfield, midpark around 72nd St. B/C trains to 72nd St. 6 train to 68th St. Generally free; for benefit concerts ticket prices vary.*

**The Supper Club** (p. 245) MIDTOWN WEST Where would-be, not-so-well-bred, well-off swells put on the ritz and glitz to old-style crooners.... *Tel 212/921-1940. www.thesupperclub.com. 240 West 47th St. N/Q/R/W or 1/2/3/7/9 trains to Times Square. Ticket prices vary.*

**See Map 18 on p. 260, bullet 51.**

**Symphony Space** (p. 248) UPPER WEST SIDE Paint has just dried on a full restoration of this Uptown destination for music and more.... *Tel 212/864-5400. www.symphonyspace.org. 2537 Broadway. 1/2/3/9 trains to 96th St. Ticket prices vary.*

**See Map 19 on p. 262, bullet 71.**

**The Theater for the New City** (p. 251) EAST VILLAGE Low profile but high quality alternative theater in the E.V.... *Tel 212/254-1109. www.theaterforthenewcity.net. 155 First Ave. 6 train to Astor Place. Ticket prices vary.*

**See Map 17 on p. 258, bullet 5.**

**Tonic** (p. 243) LOWER EAST SIDE A live music club with as little pretension as you could hope for from avant-garde jazz.... *Tel 212/358-7501. www.tonic107.com. 107 Norfolk St. F train to Delancey St. or J/M/Z trains to Essex St. Tickets $5–$10.*

**See Map 17 on p. 258, bullet 34.**

**Town Hall** (p. 242) MIDTOWN WEST A fine, midsize concert hall in a landmark McKim, Mead & White building that's not too hard on the eyes.... *Tel 212/840-2824. www.the-townhall-nyc.org. 123 W. 43rd St. B/D/F/V trains to 42nd St. or N/Q/R/W, 1/2/3/9, or 7 trains to Times Square. Ticket prices vary.*

**See Map 18 on p. 260, bullet 56.**

**United Artists Battery Park Stadium 16 (p. 255)** BATTERY PARK The neighborhood is still recovering from 9/11 and the crowds don't swamp this mainstream movie theater. Views of Ground Zero from the landings.... *Tel 800/326-3264 x629. 102 North End Ave. N/R/W trains to Cortlandt St. Tickets $10.*

**See Map 17 on p. 258, bullet 32.**

**U.S.T.A. National Tennis Center (p. 257)** FLUSHING, QUEENS Tennis' finest do battle on the hard courts here each year at the U.S. Open championships.... *Tel 718/760-6200. www.usopen.org. Flushing Meadows, Queens. 7 train to Willets Point/Shea Stadium. Ticket prices vary.*

**Village Vanguard (p. 242)** WEST VILLAGE The Downtown jazz joint for the truly devoted. Always an intense, 'round-midnight scene.... *Tel 212/255-4037. www.villagevanguard.net. 178 7th Ave. 1/2/3/9 trains to 14th St. Tickets $15–$20, plus $10 drink minimum.*

**See Map 18 on p. 260, bullet 68.**

**Vivian Beaumont & Mitzi E. Newhouse (p. 250)** UPPER WEST SIDE Lincoln Center's main theater space.... *Tel 212/239-6200. www.lct.org. Lincoln Center. 1/9 trains to 66th St./Lincoln Center. Ticket prices vary.*

**See Map 18 on p. 260, bullet 41.**

**Walter Reade Theatre (p. 253)** UPPER WEST SIDE Home to the annual New York Film Festival. At other times, a great program of art-house revivals and essential cinema.... *Tel 212/875-5600. www.filmlinc.com. 70 Lincoln Plaza above Alice Tully Hall. 1/9 trains to 66th St./Lincoln Center. Tickets $9.50.*

**See Map 18 on p. 260, bullet 42.**

**Whitney Museum of American Art** See "Diversions."

**World Music Institute (p. 252)** VARIOUS LOCATIONS From country blues to classic oud, at venues around town. Call them for upcoming events.... *Tel 212/545-7536. www.worldmusicinstitute.org. 49 W. 27th St. N/R trains to 28th St. Ticket prices vary.*

**Yankee Stadium (p. 256)** BRONX The legendary House that Ruth Built, in a borderline Bronx neighborhood. The camaraderie is palpable when fans pack into the subway cars on the way in and out.... *Tel 718/293-6000. www.yankees.com. 161st St. and River Ave., Bronx. B/D/4 trains to 161st St./Yankee Stadium. Tickets $8–$65.*

# HOTLINES & OTHER BASICS

**Airports...** New York City is served by three major airports: **LaGuardia Airport** (tel 718/533-3400), **John F. Kennedy (JFK) International Airport** (tel 718/244-4444), and **Newark International Airport** (tel 973/961-6000) in New Jersey. JFK, in southeastern Queens, is the major international airport for the entire East Coast and serves both international and domestic travelers. Domestic passengers usually prefer LaGuardia Airport, also in Queens, but a shorter ride and cheaper cab or bus fare to Manhattan. More and more travelers, both domestic and international, are switching to Newark Airport, whose new terminals are less crowded and more relaxed. **New York Airport Service** (718/875-8200; www.nyairportservice.com) runs buses between JFK and LaGuardia airports every 30 minutes. The cost is $11 per person. From Kennedy, buses run from 6:30am to 8:00pm daily. From LaGuardia, buses run from 7:30am to 8:00pm daily. Customer service reps or signs are located at the baggage pickups of all terminals at both airports. **Aiporter** (tel 800/385-4000) links Newark with JFK—so if you miss a flight at one airport, you may be able to catch a plane at another.

**Airport transportation to the city...** The cheapest way to get into the city from **JFK** is via the free **Port Authority Shuttle Bus** to the Howard Beach **subway** station, where you can catch an A train into Manhattan (subway fare $2.00). Subway transport is possible from **LaGuardia** by taking a **Q33, M60,** or **Q48 bus** (fare $2.00; exact change, MetroCard, or token) to the subway, where for another $2.00 token you can ride the number 7 train to Midtown. If you use a MetroCard, the transfer is free. Just as cheap, and more scenic, is the **M60 bus** from **LaGuardia** (fare $2.00; MetroCard, token, or exact change). You cross the Triboro Bridge and see Harlem's 125th Street on your way to Broadway and 106th Street, where you can transfer free to a Midtown-bound **M104** bus. **New York Airport Service** (tel 718/875–8200; www.nyairportservice.com) will take you from JFK or LaGuardia to where you need to go. Leaving **Newark Airport,** catch the **Olympia Trails Airport Express** (tel 212/964-6233) for a $10, 30-minute ride to Penn Station (34th St. and 8th Ave.) or Grand Central. Buses leave every 20 to 30 minutes. **Gray Line Air Shuttle** (tel 212/315-3006) operates a minibus service between all three airports and a number of Manhattan hotels for $14 from JFK, $13 from LaGuardia, and $14 from Newark. **Super Shuttle** (tel 212/BLUE VAN) will transport you between any of the three airports and any address in Manhattan for $14 (LaGuardia), $15 (JFK), or $18 (Newark). If you're in a party of three or more, ask them about rates for a private van. Those who prefer a cab ride into the city should ignore the tempting offers of freelance limousine drivers and march straight to the taxi stand, where a uniformed dispatcher ushers passengers into licensed cabs. JFK now has a flat fare of $35 to Manhattan, but you must have an officially dispatched cab (and the fare doesn't include tolls and tip). The estimated fare from Newark is between $34 and $55; the dispatcher will give you the fare when you let them know where in town you're going. Legitimate limousine pickup is available at all three airports from such private companies as **Carmel Limousine Service** (tel 212/666-6666). The cost is $25 from LaGuardia, $32 from JFK, and $34 from Newark, plus tolls and tip.



**All-night pharmacies...** A must in the city that never sleeps, 24-hour drugstores include **Duane Reade Drugs** at

Broadway and 57th Street (tel 212/541-9708), Broadway and 91st Street (tel 212/799-3172), Third Avenue and 74th Street (tel 212/744-2668), and Lexington Avenue and 47th Street (tel 212/682-5338).

**Buses...** **MTA-New York City Transit** (tel 718/330-1234) operates the world's largest fleet of public buses, running round the clock. The best way to pay your $2.00 fare is with the electronic **MetroCard,** sold in subway stations and many retail stores. It allows you a free transfer to another bus **or** to the subway. If you pay with a token or exact change, you have to request a transfer when you pay your fare, and it's good only for another bus. MetroCards come in three varieties. With a standard card, you put as much money as you like on it, from $3 up to $80. Each time you add at least $15, you get a 10% bonus. A second type provides unlimited bus and subway rides for a flat rate: 7 days for $21 or 30 days for $70. The third type of card, a wonderful deal for visitors, is the **FunPass.** For $7, less than the price of three regular fares, you get unlimited rides for 24 hours. Among the places FunPasses can be bought are the Times Square subway station, the New York Visitors Center, and stores that display the FunPass logo. Each bus's destination appears above its front windshield; routes are posted at most bus stops. Children under 44 inches tall ride free. The **Port Authority Bus Terminal** (tel 212/564-8484, 8th Ave. at 42nd St.) serves **Greyhound, Trailways,** and other long-distance bus lines, as well as the suburbs.

**Car rentals...** Cars are the least efficient way to get around town, but if you must drive, modest economy- or midsize cars are more likely to survive parallel parking, taxicab-bumping, and other everyday urban experiences. Try **Budget** (tel 800/527-0700, all 3 airports plus 5 NYC locations); **Avis** (tel 800/331-1212, all 3 airports plus 9 NYC locations); and **Hertz** (tel 800/654-3131, all 3 airports plus 11 Manhattan locations). On the other hand, if you feel a sudden urge to take off for the Hamptons for the weekend, consider a Porsche Boxter convertible from **AA Exotic Rentals** (tel 212/633-1191), for a mere $850 for 3 days. Several traffic restrictions have been put in place since the World Trade Center attack. These measures have been taken to increase security and to aid with relief and

recovery efforts and will remain in place indefinitely: Single-occupancy vehicles are prohibited from entering Manhattan between 6am and 10am Monday through Friday via the following crossings: the Brooklyn Bridge, Manhattan Bridge, Williamsburg Bridge, Queensboro Bridge, Midtown Tunnel, Lincoln Tunnel, and Holland Tunnel. Vehicles with New York City parking permits for the disabled and motorcycles are exempt from this measure. Passenger cars are not allowed south of Canal Street between 6am and 10am daily. Traffic is restricted to emergency efforts on the southbound FDR Drive south of the Brooklyn Bridge. Updated information can be found at the New York City Department of Transportation website: www.ci.nyc.ny.us/html/dot/html/get_around/emergencyinfo.html#restrictions.

**Child care services...** Many New York hotels provide babysitting services or keep a list of reliable sitters. If your hotel isn't among them, call **The Baby Sitters Guild** (tel 212/682-0227) or the **Frances Stewart Agency** (tel 212/439-9222). Both services provide in-room child care as well as on-request trips to the playground, the Central Park Zoo, and so on, for children of all ages, with licensed, bonded, insured sitters (baby nurses are trained in CPR).

**Cultural-events hotlines...** For information on theater, music, and dance performances, call **NYC On Stage** (tel 212/768-1818). The **City Parks Special Events Hotline** (tel 212/360-3456) provides news of outdoor concerts and performances and New York Roadrunner Club events. If you have Web access, point your browser to **www.nycvisit.com** for a continuously updated listing of music, theater, museum, and other events.

**Dentists...** You can get a list of dentists near you by calling the **Dental Society** (tel 718/522-3939).

**Disability services...** Alexander Wood of **Big Apple Greeters** (tel 212/669-8159) specializes in advising disabled visitors on how to get around and enjoy the city. Note that the subway system remains largely inaccessible to the disabled, but 95% of the city's buses are equipped to carry wheelchairs.

**Doctors...** **Dial-A-Doctor** (tel 212/971-9692) sends physicians on house or hotel calls 24 hours a day.

**Driving around...** In Midtown, and other spots where the police feel it's vital to keep traffic flowing, your illegally parked car will be towed in minutes, so don't even think of violating parking laws there. Elsewhere, officers are required to complete any parking ticket they've begun filling out, so begging or threatening will do no good. To find out where your car has been towed, call the **Borough Tow Pound** (tel 212/971-0770). For information on parking regulations currently in effect, call the **New York City Department of Transportation** (tel 212/225-5368). (See also "Parking," below.)

**Emergencies...** The number to know is **911**, for police, fire, and ambulance service (for non-emergency calls to police and other government offices call **311)**. Other emergency numbers include **AIDS Hotline** (tel 212/807-6655), **Animal Bites** (tel 212/676-2483), **Poison Control** (tel 212/340-4494), **Suicide Prevention** (tel 718/389-9608), **Traveler's Aid** (tel 212/758-0763), and **Victim Services Hotline** (tel 212/577-7777).

**Ferries...** Despite a tragic accident in the fall of 2003, the **Staten Island Ferry** (tel 718/727-2508) at Battery Park remains the best way to enjoy views of the Manhattan skyline, New York Harbor, and Statue of Liberty. Best of all, it's now free. Still, other ferries work the harbor as well: The **Ellis Island and Statue of Liberty Ferry** (tel 212/269-5755) leaves Battery Park every 15 to 30 minutes for two of the city's most popular tourist destinations, for $7 round-trip. The **New York Waterway Ferry and Bus System** (tel 201/902-8700) has instituted a spiffy service between New Jersey and Manhattan, as well as other routes.

**Festivals and special events...** New York thrives on festivals, and the best way to find out about them is to pick up a copy of **"The Official NYC Guide"** at your hotel, or call the **New York Convention & Visitors Bureau** (tel 800/NYC-VISIT or 212/484-1222, 810 Seventh Ave.). The guide lists art exhibits, walking tours, children's entertainment, ethnic festivals, and performances. Some events

draw such a crowd that you'll want to reserve your hotel room, plane tickets, and events tickets well in advance. These include: **New Year's Eve** in Times Square; the **St. Patrick's Day Parade** down Fifth Avenue in March; the **Gay Pride Parade** on the last Sunday in June; **Macy's July 4th Fireworks Extravaganza;** the **U.S. Open Tennis Championships** in Flushing Meadows, Queens, in September; the **New York Film Festival** in late September/early October; the **Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade;** and the **Christmas Tree Lighting** at Rockefeller Center in early December.

**Foreign currency exchange...** **American Express Travel Agencies** (tel 800/528-4800) will exchange currency at Macy's department store and in other locations. The offices of **Thomas Cook Currency Services** (tel 800/287-7362) are open from 9am to 5pm in Times Square, Grand Central Station, Herald Square, on Wall Street, and on Madison Avenue at 53rd Street. **Chase Manhattan Bank** (tel 800/287-4054) exchanges currency in all its branch banks or will deliver foreign currency to your home or office.

**Gay and lesbian resources...** New York boasts a gay and lesbian population large enough to support such organizations as the **Gay and Lesbian Anti-Violence Project** (tel 212/714-1141) and the **Gay Men's Health Crisis** (tel 212/807-6655) and institutions including **Three Lives Bookstore** (tel 212/741-2069, 154 W. 10th St.). ***The Village Voice*** remains a dependable source of gay-related news and entertainment listings. There is also a free newspaper in town called the ***New York City Blade,*** which boasts the largest (50,000) circulation of any gay weekly. It is available in maroon-colored stands on street corners throughout Manhattan.

**Limousine and car services...** **Gotham Limousine, Inc.**'s (tel 718/361-2401) rates range from $60 (includes tip) per hour for a chauffeured 4-passenger sedan to $125 (includes tip) per hour for a 10-passenger stretch limousine; **Promenade Car Service** (tel 718/858-6666) offers non-luxury cars with a driver for $35 per hour.

**Newspapers...** Manhattan newsstands offer a blizzard of political, professional, academic, alternative, business, and foreign language periodicals. Where to begin? Perhaps with the three major English-language dailies: the ***New York Times,*** the ***Daily News,*** and the ***New York Post.*** Briefly, the ***Times*** is the "official" paper, the ***News*** is the boroughs' favorite, and the ***Post*** is a tabloid owned by Mr. Murdoch. ***The New York Observer,*** a brash weekly printed on salmon-colored newsprint, focuses on fads, fashion, and gossip, particularly within the media. The ***Wall Street Journal*** is also edited here. ***The Village Voice*** offers liberal politics, entertainment listings, and the biggest personal ad section in New York.

**Parking...** Garages dot Manhattan streets every 2 blocks or so, with rates averaging about $7 for less than 2 hours, $15 for half a day, and $35 overnight. Prices are sometimes lower at night in business districts and during the day in residential areas; outdoor lots are less expensive, when you can find them. Our advice: Find a hotel that offers free parking, such as the **Franklin** or the **Algonquin** (see "Accommodations"). Most Midtown hotels provide valet parking at about $35 per night. A partial list of garages includes **Kinney System, Inc.** (tel 800/KNY-PARK), with more than 150 garages; **Rapid Park** (tel 800/804-7275), with more than 30 locations; **GMC** (tel 212/888-7400), with 55 locations.

**Phone facts...** In 2003, which might as well be called The Year of Annoying Changes (e.g. smoking laws, MTA hikes), NYC became a 10-, er uh, 11-digit city. That is, throughout the five boroughs, New Yorkers now have to dial 1 + the area code + the 7 digit number every time, regardless of whether we are calling 1 block away (and within the same area code) or two boroughs away. There are four area codes in the city: two in Manhattan, the original **212** and the new **646,** and two in the outer boroughs, the original **718** and the new **347.** Also common is the **917** area code, which is assigned to cell phones, pagers, and the like. All calls between these area codes are local calls. For directory assistance, dial 411. There are public phones on every other street corner in Manhattan, and, there, directory

assistance calls are free. Some take coins; others require calling cards. A local call costs 25¢. For fax service, a private booth, or TDDs, try the **AT&T Public Calling Center** (tel 800/CALLATT) at Grand Central Terminal (42nd St. and Lexington Ave.).

**Post offices...** The **Main Post Office** at 8th Avenue and 33rd Street (tel 212/967-8585) is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Call the **Postal Answer Line** (tel 212/330-4000) for other information.

**Radio stations...** On the FM dial, **WPLJ (95.5)** concentrates on Top 40 hits; **WBLS (107.5)** plays soul and R&B; **WFMU (91.1)** offers alternative, eclectic fare; **HOT 97** does urban contemporary; **WRKS (KISS-FM, 98.7)** has soul classics; **Z100 (100.3)** specializes in rock; and **WKCR (89.9)** offers jazz. Tune into **WNYC (93.9)** for classical music, and **WXRK (92.3)** for Howard Stern. AM stations include **WNYC (820),** the National Public Radio affiliate; **WFAN (660)** for sports; and **WCBS (880)** and **WINS (1010)** for continual news.

**Restrooms...** Freud himself was reputedly scandalized by New York's lack of public restrooms, and the situation has not changed much since then. Restrooms do exist in **Central Park** across from the Delacorte Theater, mid-park at 79th Street. **Bryant Park,** at 42nd Street and 6th Avenue behind the New York Public Library, now offers clean, guarded restrooms free of charge. The library itself has nice, large bathrooms that are easy to duck into, as do most of the branch libraries throughout the city. If you can't find a public facility, do what the natives do: Stride into the nearest hotel lobby or cafe and back to the ladies' or gents' like you own the place. No one is likely to stop you.

**Smoking...** New York's stringent smoking regulations forbid smoking in all restaurants, bars, and in workplaces—you'll see office workers and disgruntled bar patrons madly puffing just outside lobby and bar entrances all over town. Forget smoking on buses and subway trains or in taxis. Taxi drivers are not allowed to smoke, either.

| Size Conversion Chart | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Women's Clothing** | | | | | | | | |
| American | 4 | 6 | 8 | 10 | 12 | 14 | 16 | |
| French | 34 | 36 | 38 | 40 | 42 | 44 | 46 | |
| British | 6 | 8 | 10 | 12 | 14 | 16 | 18 | |
| **Women's Shoes** | | | | | | | | |
| American | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | | |
| French | 36 | 37 | 38 | 39 | 40 | 41 | | |
| British | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | | |
| **Men's Suits** | | | | | | | | |
| American | 34 | 36 | 38 | 40 | 42 | 44 | 46 | 48 |
| French | 44 | 46 | 48 | 50 | 52 | 54 | 56 | 58 |
| British | 34 | 36 | 38 | 40 | 42 | 44 | 46 | 48 |
| **Men's Shirts** | | | | | | | | |
| American | 14½ | 15 | 15½ | 16 | 16½ | 17 | 17½ | |
| French | 37 | 38 | 39 | 41 | 42 | 43 | 44 | |
| British | 14½ | 15 | 15½ | 16 | 16½ | 17 | 17½ | |
| **Men's Shoes** | | | | | | | | |
| American | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | |
| French | 39½ | 41 | 42 | 43 | 44½ | 46 | 47 | |
| British | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | |

**Subways...** Operated by the **New York City Metropolitan Transit Authority** (tel 718/330-1234), the subway transports 3½ million people per day from 469 stations in Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens, and the Bronx—so give the MTA a break if some stations are a tad grimy or the trains a little noisy. Even mildly adventurous visitors should feel comfortable underground from 7am to 10pm. Tokens have gone the way of the horse-drawn carriage and qualified politicians—they are no more. Passengers now use the electronic **MetroCard,** available at all subway stations and many stores.

After it was revealed that the MTA cooked its books to justify proposed fare increases, there was some talk that

the hikes would be rolled back. That proved to be over-optimistic. Rather than let a small thing like corruption get in the way of their plan, the MTA raised subway fares to $2 per ride in May 2003, much to the disgust of most New Yorkers.

The three sorts of MetroCards are explained in the "Buses" section in this chapter. The Metrocard will get you on both the subways and the buses. If you put more than one fare at a time on a MetroCard, it somehow remembers and gives you that number of free transfers, provided you use them all at the same time. Children under 44 inches ride free. Maps are posted inside stations and in most cars. You can get a free copy of "The Map" at subway stations or the NYC Visitors Bureau (810 Seventh Ave.). It shows the subway system, the suburban rail lines, and connections between subways and bus lines.

**Taxes...** **Sales tax** is 8.625% on meals, most goods, and some services, but it is not charged on clothing and footwear items under $110. **Hotel tax** is 13.25% plus $2 per room per night (including sales tax). **Parking garage tax** is 18.25%.

**Taxis...** The only taxis authorized to pick up passengers hailing them on the street are **yellow cabs,** which have an official taxi medallion screwed onto the hood. So-called "gypsy cabs," working for car services, sometimes stop illegally for passengers on the street, but since they have no meter, you'll have to negotiate your own fare with the driver, and you'll have no legal recourse if there's a problem. To know whether a yellow taxi is available, look for the lit-up sign on the roof of the cab; off-duty cabs (side sections of the roof sign lit) may pick up passengers at their own discretion. Taxi meters calculate the fare: $2.00 when you get in, plus 30¢ for each 1/5 of a mile and 20¢ for each minute of waiting time in traffic. There's an extra 50¢ charge from 8pm to 6am. Passengers pay any bridge or tunnel tolls. A 15% to 20% tip is expected. Complaints concerning limousines, car services, or cabs should be directed to the **NYC Taxi and Limousine Commission** (tel 800-NYC TAXI).

**Ticket charge lines...** Telecharge (tel 212/239-6200); Ticketmaster (tel 212/307-7171).

**Tipping...** When calculating a restaurant tip, many New Yorkers simply double the tax amount on their check (2 × 8.25% = 16.5%, a reasonable tip). But New York waitpeople work hard for their money, so round it up to 20% if you can. At top restaurants, give the waiter 15% and the captain 5%. Tip hotel doormen $1 per taxi, and bellhops and airport porters $1 per bag.

**Trains...** There are two major railway terminals in Manhattan: **Grand Central Terminal** at 42nd Street and Lexington Avenue and **Pennsylvania (Penn) Station** at 33rd Street and 7th Avenue. **Amtrak** trains (tel 800/872-7245) depart Penn Station for points across the country. Among them are Amtrak's Metroliner, an hourly express train to Washington, D.C. Also operating out of Penn Station are the **New Jersey Transit** (tel 973/762-5100) and **Long Island Railroad** (tel 718/217-5477) commuter lines. The **Metro-North Commuter Railroad** (212/532-4900) serves Connecticut and New York State from Grand Central.

**TV stations...** **CBS** plays on Channel 2; **NBC** is 4; the **Fox** network is 5; **ABC** is 7; 13 is reserved for **PBS** (two other PBS stations are at 21 and 50 on the dial). The other channels reel with foreign-language, public access, sports, news, and additional networks.

**Visitor information...** **The New York Convention & Visitors Bureau's Visitors Information Center** (see "Festivals and Special Events," above) is open 7 days a week, providing maps and advice, along with "two-fers" for savings on Broadway and Off-Broadway plays. The Visitors Bureau's toll-free, 24-hour **information hotline** (tel 800/NYC VISIT or 212/397-8222 outside the U.S.) offers similar information by phone.

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